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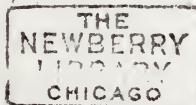
STATISTICAL AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

COUNTY OF ADDISON, VERNONT.

WRITTEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBURY,

• BY SAMUEL SWIFT.



MIDDLEBURY:  
A. H. COPELAND.  
1859.



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Sam'l. Swift

REVIEW



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## NOTICE.

In writing the "Statistical and Historical account of the County of Addison," it has not been my intention to interfere with the histories of the several towns, which may be published ; nor state any facts or Statistics, except such as have some reference to the County generally. I should have been gratified to notice some of the distinguished citizens in the several towns, especially such as have been in office in the county ; also the Academies and other High Schools, which have been established in several towns. But I was unwilling to take these out of the hands of the historians of the several towns, which they will be much better qualified to describe, and which are more properly within their province.

This work was written, when the materials were collected, in 1855. Since that some changes of a public character have taken place, and some information has been received, which I have inserted in the text or notes ; but most of the chapters remain as they were written,—no new materials have been collected.

S. SWIFT.



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# COUNTY OF ADDISON.

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## CHAPTER I.

TERRITORY—FACE OF THE COUNTRY—SOIL—ORIGINAL FORESTS—  
LIME—MARBLE—STREAMS.

Soon after the organization of the Historical Society of Middlebury, the importance of procuring, as early as possible, histories of the several towns in the County became a subject of consideration. Already nearly all the men who had shared in the occurrences and toils of the first settlement had passed away; and their immediate descendants, who are the next best witnesses, will soon follow them. It is known to all, who have any knowledge of the subject, that no histories are so interesting to residents, especially descendants of the early inhabitants, as the history of the perils and hardships of the first settlement in their respective towns. Yet this subject had been everywhere too much neglected, and was likely to be neglected, unless some exterior influence should be brought to bear upon it. The subject was, therefore, brought more distinctly before the Society, at their annual meeting on the 29th day of December, 1846. At this time a committee was appointed to consider the subject and make report at the next meeting. At a subsequent meeting, on the 23d of February, Professor STODDARD, one of the committee, made a report, which was accepted, and the plan recommended was adopted, and a committee appointed to carry it into effect. This committee appointed competent agents in the several towns, and sent to them circulars, embracing the plan recommended



by the society. But the committee have found it a more difficult task than they had anticipated to accomplish so desirable an object. Some of the agents declined the undertaking, and others, who had given encouragement, neglected the task so long that all hope from them was given up. In many of the towns new agents were appointed, and requested to perform the service. In two of the most important towns, gentlemen, fully competent to the undertaking, had collected materials, and made progress in the work; but in the midst of their labors, one of them was arrested by death and the other removed from the State. Notwithstanding the faithful exertions of PHILIP BATTELL, Esq., Secretary of the society and one of the committee, a few only of the histories have been completed. But it was thought best to delay the publication no longer. On examination and inquiry, however, no person could be found willing to undertake the publication of the whole together, as was proposed, or separately, on account of the limited sale which must attend the work. Since the passage of the act of the Legislature at their session in 1858, it is proposed to commence the publication of the history of each town separately, as fast as they are written, and the towns shall furnish the requisite encouragement. The histories are obtained through the agency and published under the direction of the society. But it is to be understood that the society take to themselves none of the credit or responsibility of the composition. These belong exclusively to the several authors.

As the plan is designed to embrace the histories of all the towns in the County of Addison, it is thought proper to introduce them with some general account of that territory as a whole. The County properly has no history. It has its geography and its geology; but it has no active independent existence; no acts or laws of its own to be recorded. It is a field rather, in which the State operates by its acts and laws. It has its courts, but they are established by the State; and it has its officers, but they are appointed or commissioned by the State. Its history is only the history of a part of the State, and the history of the State is its history. This fact may justify the record we make of incidents, which properly belong to the history of the State. In doing so we have relied on original docu-



ments, and do not design to give any general history, but to confine ourselves chiefly to such incidents as are not contained in our present State histories, and thus perhaps correct some views and facts stated by them.

The County of Addison is situated on the west line of the State and nearly in the centre north and south; between  $43^{\circ} 50'$  and  $44^{\circ} 10'$  north latitude. It is bounded on the west by Lake Champlain, the western boundary of the State; on the north by the towns of Charlotte, Hinesburgh and a part of Huntington, in the County of Chittenden; on the north-east by a part of Huntington, and by Fayston, Warren and Roxbury, in the County of Washington; on the south-east by Braintree, in the County of Orange, and Rochester, in the County of Windsor; and on the south by Benson, Sudbury, Brandon and Chittenden, in the County of Rutland. It embraces at the present time the following towns:

ADDISON,	GRANVILLE,	NEW HAVEN,	STARKSBOROUGH,
BRIDPORT,	HANCOCK,	ORWELL,	VERGENNES,
BRISTOL,	LEICESTER,	PANTON,	WALTHAM,
CORNWALL,	LINCOLN,	RIPTON,	WEYBRIDGE,
FERRISBURGH,	MIDDLEBURY,	SALISBURY,	WHITING.
GOSHEN,	MONKTON,	SHOREHAM,	

The County formerly embraced an unincorporated tract of land known by the name of Avery's Gore; the east part of which, by act of the Legislature passed November 6, 1833, was added to the town of Kingston, now Granville, and the north part was added to Lincoln, by act of November 12, 1849.

This County was established by act of the Legislature October 18, 1785, and the territory which it contained is described in the act as follows: "Beginning at the northwest corner of Orwell, then running eastwardly on the north line of Orwell, Sudbury, Brandon and Philadelphia, and then so far east as to intersect the west line of the first town, that is bounded in its charter, or some town or towns, which are dependent for their original bounds on Connecticut River as aforesaid, to the south line of the Province of Quebec, which is the north line of this State; then westwardly in said line through Missisque Bay, &c., to the centre of the deepest



channel of Lake Champlain; then southwardly in the deepest channel of said lake till it intersects the west line from the northwest corner of said Orwell; then east to the bounds begun at; which territory of land shall be known by the name of the County of Addison; and the east line of said County of Addison shall be the west line of the counties of Windsor and Orange, so far as they join."

The County by this act embraced the territory to the north line of the State, so far east as to include a large part of the Counties of Washington and Orleans. The town of Kingston, now Granville, not included in the original boundaries, was set off from Orange County to this, by act of the 19th of October, 1787. The act establishing the County of Chittenden was passed on the 22d of October, 1787, making the north line of this County the same as at present, except that it embraced the town of Starksboro, which afterwards by the act of 1797 was included in this County. The town of Warren, which was included in this County, by act of the Legislature in 1829, was annexed to the County of Washington; and the town of Orwell, then in the County of Rutland, was, on the 13th November, 1847, annexed to this County. These constitute all the changes made in the territory of the County since its first establishment, leaving in it the towns above enumerated.

The eastern part of the County extends over the first range of the Green Mountains; and five of the towns are situated on, or among the mountains, and others extend their eastern borders up the western slope. About a quarter of the county is mountainous, or has a soil of similar characteristics. The soil of this tract is generally loam of variable compactness, and some is gravelly or sandy. Some of the hills are so stony or steep as to be better suited for pasture than for tilling. But large portions are not too stony or steep to be excellent tilling lands, and are quite productive of many valuable crops. When opened for a season to the influence of the sun, they produce good crops of corn, spring wheat and other grains, and they are especially valuable for grazing. The alluvial lands on the branches of White River in the eastern towns, and on other streams, are especially valuable for these purposes. The towns west of the mountains are in part very level, and in part, what may be called



rolling, with a few hills too prominent to bear that designation. Among which is Snake Mountain, a long ridge of moderately elevated land, lying on the borders of each of the towns of Addison, Weybridge and Bridport. In these towns, the prevailing soil is clay, of different degrees of stiffness, with some loam, gravelly and sandy land, on the more elevated portions, which rise above what is said by geologists, to have been once covered with water.

On the borders of Lake Champlain, especially in the towns of Addison, Panton and Ferrisburgh, are very extensive flat lands, composed of clay, with a mixture of vegetable substances, which were obviously once the bottom of the lake. These lands, when cleared are remarkably productive of grass; but for other crops are too stiff for easy cultivation, and are liable to suffer when the season is too wet or too dry. In this tract are several sluggish streams. One of which especially, being of greater extent than the others, bears the name of Dead Creek. It rises in Bridport, and runs northerly, through Addison and Panton and empties into Otter Creek in Ferrisburgh. This, as well as the others, is supplied to a moderate extent, from small springs at the bottom of the channel, but principally by rain water and melted snow, collected from an extensive surface in small ravines. The stream being nearly on a level with Otter Creek, the water is increased or diminished by the rise or fall of the latter stream, whose waters set up into it. Another called Ward's Creek, also rises in Bridport, and runs through a corner of Addison and empties into the lake about a mile south of Crown Point, and another called Hospital Creek empties into the lake a short distance north of Chimney Point. The quantity of water in these depends on the height of the water in the lake. These sluggish streams afford water for cattle in their neighborhood, through the summer, except in the driest seasons.

Lemon Fair rises in Orwell and runs through the eastern part of Shoreham, southeast part of Bridport, and northwest part of Cornwall, and empties into Otter Creek in Weybridge. In Shoreham there is a considerable water power on this stream, but below that it is very sluggish, and its quantity of water depends much on the height of the water in Otter Creek, in the spring and other freshets.



On the borders of this creek are also extensive flat lands, which have no superior for the production of grass.

On the borders of Otter Creek are also extensive flats, which in the spring and other high freshets are overflowed by the waters of the creek. A part of the tract, especially in Cornwall and Whiting on the west side, and Middlebury and Salisbury on the east side, is so low as to be called a swamp, and, except small patches called islands, consists of vegetable substances to the depth, in some places, of ten feet. These lands when cleared and thoroughly drained become very productive.

The natural growth timber on the flat lands last mentioned, was pine, cedar, tamarack, soft maple, black ash and elm, with an occasional mixture of other trees. And similar timber was the growth of a similar swamp in New Haven, and another in Shoreham. On the flat lands on the border of the lake, the original timber was pine, oak, soft maple, black ash, and some other trees in smaller numbers. On the western slope of the mountain were a few patches of pine, and in other parts of the mountainous region were fine groves of maple, beech, birch, black cherry and hemlock, and a very handsome growth of spruce, which has become an important article for building and for exportation. In other parts west of the mountains were considerable tracts of pine and oak. Besides these the principal trees were maple, beech, ash, basswood, butternut, walnut and hemlock. The large quantities of pine and oak have been so freely used for building and for exportation, that they have already become scarce and high in price.

In the western part of the County, the lands on the borders of the lake, especially in the towns of Bridport, Addison and Panton, are greatly deficient in water. There are no considerable running streams, except the dead streams we have mentioned. The living water from springs is very limited: and some of these are so strongly impregnated with Epsom Salts, that the inhabitants have evaporated the water to procure the salts for medicine. It is said that cattle are fond of the water, and that the springs were much visited by the deer before the settlement of the country. In some parts the inhabitants are obliged to resort, to a great extent, to rain water for



family use; and farmers, who live at a distance from the lake and creeks, are much troubled in dry seasons to obtain water for their cattle. Except the limited water power on Lemon Fair in Shoreham, there is none in that town or either of the towns above mentioned of much value. And yet these towns are among the most wealthy agricultural towns in the County.

The range of granular lime stone, which enters this State from Berkshire County, Mass., at Pownal, and passes through the Counties of Bennington and Rutland, passes also through this County. The lime produced from it is of a very superior quality, and is thought, by those acquainted with it, to be much superior to the lime from Maine, which is common in the Boston market. Considerable establishments,—one especially, near the Whiting Railroad Station, built by L. P. White, Esq.—have been formed for manufacturing it; and large quantities are already exported by the railroad to the eastern towns; and the demand is such as to authorize an extensive enlargement of the business, where the requisite fuel is not too expensive.

From this range large quantities of marble are taken out and manufactured in Bennington and Rutland Counties, and exported to every part of the United States. The marble improves, in its fineness and compactness, as it advances north, and it is believed that the best in the whole range is to be found in Addison County. It is of a finer quality than any which has been discovered, unless it be the quarry in Sudbury near the south line of this County. It is pronounced by competent judges to be superior to the Italian marble for statuary, and the only doubt is, whether large blocks can be obtained sufficiently sound. No sufficient exploration has been made to settle that question. No persons have been able and willing to invest a sufficient capital for that purpose. Some injudicious expenditure was made on a quarry about a mile east of the village of Middlebury. But it has been in hands not yet able to make a thorough exploration. Another quarry, on which there has been some expenditure, is at Belden's Falls, two miles north of the village of Middlebury. It was purchased, together with the water power, by the late Col. PERKINS, of Boston, and PERKINS NICHOLS, of New



York, both too far advanced in life to engage personally in the business. Under a contract made with them, a company of men undertook to make an examination of the quarry, under the superintendence of a scientific gentleman, Professor FOSTER. The examination was continued for several weeks, and a considerable number of blocks were taken out, and the Professor, to the very last, expressed entire confidence that the marble was sound, and that a large establishment would soon be made for the purpose of working it. But the work was suddenly stopped without any reason known to us.

Doct. EBEN W. JUDD, of Middlebury, was the first person who wrought marble by water power in this State. He and his son-in-law, LEBBEUS HARRIS, carried on the business extensively for several years; but both dying, the business was closed. They wrought principally the blue and clouded marble in their neighborhood, as more easily obtained. They in the meantime purchased the quarry of beautiful black marble on the lake shore in Shoreham, large quantities of which they wrought at their works in Middlebury. It was used principally for chimney pieces; for which purpose we think there is none superior. Doct. N. HARRIS, who afterwards owned the quarry, in company with one or two associates, got out considerable quantities of the marble, and, in unwrought blocks, put it on board boats and sent it to New York, where it is understood there was a large demand for it. We believe the quarries in Addison County will yet be a source of wealth, as well from the lime as the marble to be obtained from them.

There are also, in several places, valuable quarries of limestone suitable for building purposes. The most important are in Panton and neighborhood, from which are taken the beautiful building stone much used in Vergennes; and a quarry of excellent dark blue stone in the south part of Cornwall, in convenient layers for building, with a handsome natural face, which was used for the front of the College Chapel, and for underpinning of many other buildings in Middlebury. In Weybridge and some other towns is found valuable building stone.

The County does not abound in metallic ores. "Iron ore is found



in the south part of Monkton in large quantities. This ore makes excellent iron," and has been extensively manufactured at Vergennes, Bristol and other places. But it is said, that it is not rich, and is therefore usually mixed with ore from Crown Point, and other places west of the lake, in order to manufacture it economically.

About a mile north of the ore bed, on the east side of a ridge running north and south, is an extensive bed of kaolin. It is white, sometimes grayish white, dry to the touch and absorbs water with rapidity. It is said, "It might be manufactured into the best China ware." Under this conviction a factory for the manufacture of porcelain ware, from this material, was many years ago established at Middlebury, on the bank of the creek about a mile south of the village. But it did not succeed, either through a defect in the material, or the inexperience of the manufacturer. But it has been extensively used for the manufacture of stone ware, and fire brick.

Notwithstanding the deficiency of water in some of the western towns, we are not acquainted with any equal extent of country, which furnishes a more abundant supply of water power than the eastern and northern parts of the County. Otter Creek is one of the largest rivers in the State. It enters the County from the south in Leicester, through a part of which it passes, and is in part the boundary between that town and Whiting; runs between the towns of Salisbury and Cornwall; through the west part of Middlebury, between the towns of New Haven and Weybridge, and the towns of Waltham and Panton, and through Vergennes into Ferrisburgh, where it empties into Lake Champlain. There are few rivers, of no larger size, which afford, in the same distance, so much safe water power. From the head of the falls in Middlebury, to the foot of the falls in Vergennes, there is a descent of about three hundred feet, in a distance of about thirteen miles, divided into six or seven falls convenient for mills. In some of these, the water has a perpendicular descent, in others it falls over precipitous rocks, and in some the fall is sufficient to allow the use of the water several times. Mills on none of them are endangered by sudden and violent freshets. For twenty-five miles above the falls of Middlebury, the banks are low, and very extensive level flats adjoin them through the whole



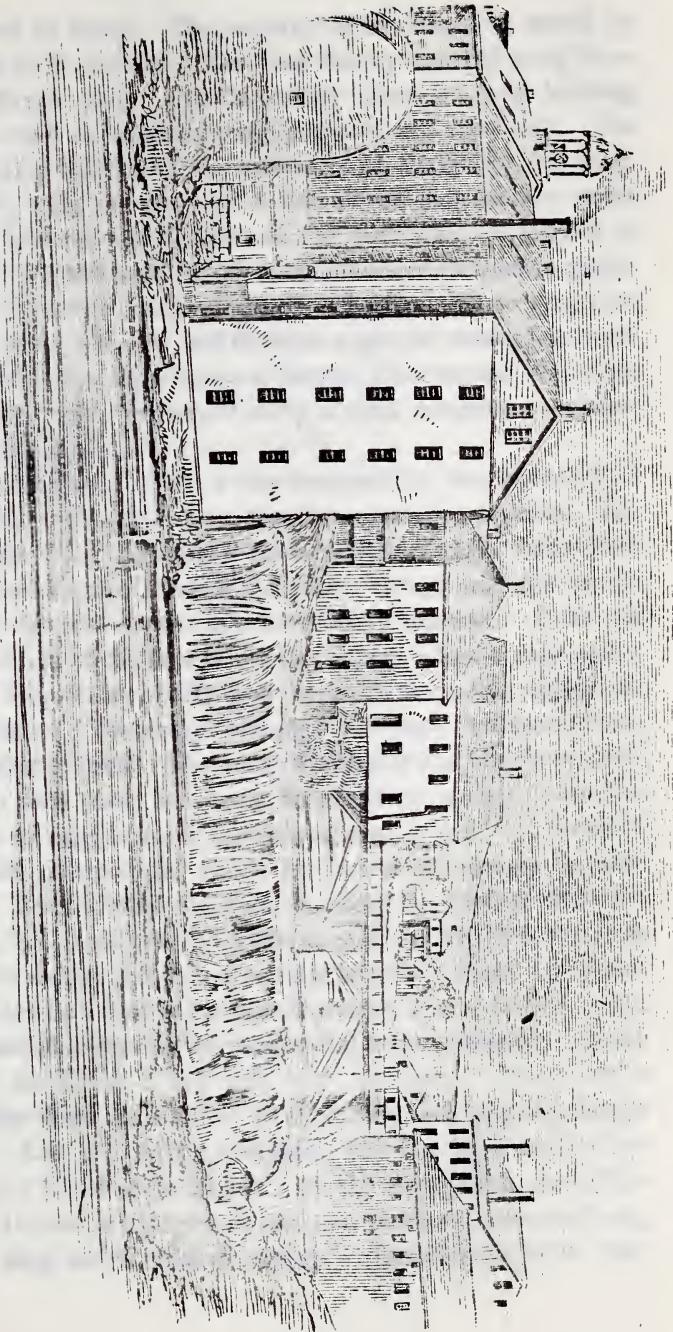
distance. In a violent rush of waters from the mountains, from melting snows or heavy rains, the water in the creek, instead of rushing in a swollen current down its channel, rises but little before it spreads over an immense extent of country, and is not wholly drawn off until the stream is reduced nearly to its common level. This of course is a protection to all the falls below. Similar flats above the falls at Vergennes, extending far up the Lemon Fair, furnish a similar security to that power. The waters on some of these falls are but partially used, and on several not at all.

At Middlebury, there is on the east side a cotton factory in full operation, and a large grist or flouring mill. On the west are a woollen factory, a grist mill, saw mill, pail factory, a plaining machine and other machinery for working wood, besides another woollen factory not now in operation. At the Paper Mill falls, three quarters of a mile farther down there are on the east side, a paper mill, oil mill, saw mill, carding machine and trip hammer shop; and on the east side a furnace and machine shop. Belden's falls a mile and a half further north, is a very valuable water power, on which there are no works. A mile or two further, and four miles from Middlebury, is Painter's falls in a similar condition. One or two miles further down the stream is the Quaker Village falls, where are a grist mill, two saw mills and some other works, and on the rapids, just above, there was, if not now, a saw mill.

PHILIP C. TUCKER, Esq., at our request, has obligingly furnished us the following account of the falls at Vergennes and the works on it. "The falls of Great Otter Creek at Vergennes, are divided by two islands into three separate parts. The width of their head is about three hundred and ten feet. The height of the fall is thirty seven feet. The creek furnishes an ample supply of water through the year. On the westerly shore is an iron foundery, a forge with four fires, and saw mill owned by the Vergennes Iron Company, and carried on by WILLIAM H. WHITE, Esq., There is also a machine shop carried on by Mr. WILLIAM ROSS. On the west island, there is a large grist and flouring mill, with five runs of stones, and a plaster mill owned and carried on by Capt. CHARLES W. BRADBURY. On the east island there is one saw mill and a



MIDDLEBURY FALLS.





manufactory of hames. The property on this island is owned by Gen. SAMUEL P. STRONG. The hame factory is carried on by WILLIAM R. BIXBY, Esq., On the easterly shore, is a large building erected in 1854 for manufacturing purposes, and a saw mill. The manufacturing building is one hundred and thirty-five feet long, thirty eight wide, and four and a half stories high on the water side, and three and a half stories on the land side. A portion of this building is now used for the manufacture of Sampson's patent scales, a new article lately patented. The saw mill is sixty-four feet long, thirty feet wide, and fitted for a gang of twenty-four saws. These buildings are the property of GREEN, ROBERTS and WILLARD, but the scale business is carried on by a stock company in connection with the patentee."

A large amount of power is also furnished by the tributaries of Otter Creek, which come down from the mountain on the east. The first in order from the south is Leicester River, which issues from Lake Dunmore, runs through Salisbury village, and five or six miles from the lake empties into the creek in Leicester. From the lake to the foot of the falls below the village, about a mile and a half, is a fall of 150 or 200 feet, available for mills, almost the whole distance. The stream, although not large, has some advantages peculiar to itself. The water, like that of the lake, from which it issues is very pure, and being furnished by springs under the lake or in its neighborhood, is so warm, that it does not freeze in winter, and obstruct the wheels by ice, as is common in other streams. Besides, when the water is raised by freshets from the mountain, it spreads over the whole surface of the lake, and does not rush in sudden and violent torrents into the stream; and it can be controlled by a dam and gate at the outlet, so as to let into it only what is needed, reserving the surplus for future necessity. There is now on the stream a saw mill near the outlet. About half a mile further down, on a fall of 15 or 20 feet, are a forge and shingle machine. Less than half a mile below this is a large woollen factory, with a fall of about 20 feet. At the first fall at the village of about 15 feet, is a large mill pond, on which are a saw mill, trip hammer shop and a woollen factory. Immediately below this,



with a fall of 25 or 30 feet is a grist mill, and immediately below the last mentioned, with a fall of 20 feet is a saw mill, and below this at the bottom of the descent, is a fall of seven or eight feet, on which a forge formerly stood, but is not now in operation.

Middlebury River rises in the mountain east of Middlebury, in two branches; the principal of which rises within the limits of Hancock. These unite in Ripton, and the stream descending the west slope of the mountain, empties into the creek near the south line of Middlebury. At the village of East Middlebury, at the foot of the mountain, is a series of falls, which furnish several valuable sites for mills. On these are now a forge, two saw mills, a grist mill, tannery, two shops with machinery for boring, sawing and turning timber for waggons, a machine for sawing shingles, a sash factory and a factory for sawing and fitting barrel staves for the Boston market. For two or three miles on each branch in Ripton, are convenient mill sites nearly the whole distance; and there are now, on the main branch four saw mills, two shingle machines and a grist mill; and on the north branch three saw mills.

New Haven River rises in the northeast part of Ripton, and runs northwesterly through Lincoln, Bristol and New Haven, and empties into Otter Creek at Brooksville, in the southeast corner of New Haven. In its course it receives several streams, on all of which are mills or forges; one in Lincoln, called Downing Brook, which rises in the northeast part of Starksborough, one in Bristol, called Baldwin Creek, and another in the south part of Bristol, called O'Brian Brook. On this stream and its tributaries, are now in Bristol, seven saw mills, two grist mills, one trip hammer, one sash and door factory, one chair factory, one carding and clothing factory and two forges. In Lincoln, there are six saw mills, one shingle and one clapboard machine, and two forges. At East Mills in New Haven, are a grist mill, saw mill and woollen factory. At the lower falls at Brooksville, is a very extensive axe factory, established and owned by BROOKS BROTHERS, which, from time to time, from small beginnings, has been greatly enlarged by its enterprising proprietors. On the same falls is a saw mill. Along the whole line of this river, is a large amount of water power yet unemployed.



To these streams may be added Little Otter Creek, which has considerable water power and a number of mills in Ferrisburgh; and Lewis Creek, which rises in Starksborough, and after running a considerable distance, through Hinesburgh and Charlotte in Chittenden County, returns into this County in Ferrisburgh. On this latter stream in Starksborough, are a saw mill, grist mill, carding machine, works for dressing cloth and a furnace, which is employed principally for casting plough shares. In Ferrisburgh also, there are several mills. Both these streams empty into Lake Champlain near each other in Ferrisburgh.

The Brook Trout is the most common and nearly the only fish found in the streams, which come down from the mountains and hills. In the early settlement they were found in great abundance, often weighing two or three pounds. But being a favorite fish for the table, great havoc has been made of them by the fishermen, and the number and size have greatly diminished. It is rare to take one weighing half a pound, and they are generally much smaller. In Lake Dunmore, the source of Leicester River, at an early day, were found large quantities of Lake Trout. The water being pure and clear, like that of Lake George, the fish were of the same quality and size. They were frequently caught weighing fifteen or twenty pounds, and it has been said sometimes twenty-five pounds. It has been said also, that formerly some trout were found in Otter Creek. But we are not aware that they have been found for many years past: The principal fish found, until lately, in this Creek or Lemon Fair, are bull-heads, suckers, rock-bass and eels. The following communication from our friend, Dr. RUSSELL, will give some idea of the fish, which now prevail in both these streams.

"**HON SAMUEL SWIFT—Sir:**—Agreeable to your request, I herewith communicate the facts, connected with the introduction of Pickerel into Otter Creek: In the spring of 1819, Hon. DANIEL CHITMAN and others, induced the formation of committees in the towns of Middlebury, Salisbury, Leicester and Whiting, to visit Lake Champlain to procure fish for the purpose of putting them into Otter Creek. The arrangement was successfully carried out; and at that time large quantities of the different varieties of fish usually taken in Lake Champlain were placed in Otter Creek. From the diary of our deceased townsmen, EBEN W. JUDG and others, I learn, that the committee for Middlebury, consisting of JAMES SATTERLY, HARVEY



WILLSON, DANIEL L. POTTER, GEORGE CHIPMAN and CHAUNCEY W. FULLER, on the 12th of May visited Lake Champlain, and fished with seines at Chimney Point. The party camped out the night of the 13th, and did not reach Middlebury, on their return, until the middle of the next night. The fish taken were transported in water, which was frequently changed on the passage. They were placed in Otter Creek above Middlebury Falls, the same night. Of the many varieties, brought from the lake, all have disappeared, except the Pickerel. They have greatly increased, both in size and quantity. Some weighing over twenty weight,—notwithstanding, the large quantity annually taken from the creek. They are found through the creek, the whole length, from Sutherland's Falls to the Vergennes Falls, and the whole length of Lemon Fair. They are as much improved in quality as in size. It is said that those taken above the Great Falls at Vergennes, are greatly superior in quality to those taken below, which come up from the lake.

Too much praise cannot be rendered those far seeing and disinterested men, who exerted themselves so successfully for our benefit, and placed within the reach of every resident of the valley of Otter Creek and Lemon Fair, a luxury not to be exceeded from any other water.

Respectfully your friend,

W. P. RUSSEL."



## CHAPTER II.

### COUNTY SEATS—COUNTY BUILDINGS—COURTS—CHANGES OF THE JUDICIARY.

The act incorporating the County in 1785, established the towns of "Addison and Colchester to be half shires," "for the time being," and directed "that the times and places for holding County Courts, or Courts of Common Pleas annually, be as follows, viz., at Addison aforesaid, the first Tuesday of March, and at Colchester the second Tuesday of November, and that the Supreme Court be held on the second Tuesday of August, alternately at Addison and Colchester." The Governor and Council were authorized "to appoint County Officers and commissionate them for the time being." The Judges of the County Court, appointed under this provision "for the time being," were JOHN STRONG of Addison, Chief Judge, and GAMALIEL PAINTER of Middlebury, and IRA ALLEN of Colchester, side or Assistant Judges, and NOAH CHITTENDEN Sheriff.

The first term of the Court was held at Addison, on the first Tuesday of March 1786. An act passed in February 1781, had provided that the freemen shculd elect four Assistant Judges of the County Court; and before the next term of the Court, the freemen of the County had elected WILLIAM BRUSH, HILAND HALL, SAMUEL LANE and ABEL THOMPSON, Assistant Judges, and the Court was held by them "at Captain THOMAS BUTTERFIELD's in Colches-ter," on the second Tuesday of November 1786. The March term 1787 was held according to the act at Addison; and the County of Chittenden, which included Colchester, being established before No-vember, that term was also held at Addison. The Judges chosen by the freemen in 1786, held the court in 1787; and since that time, only two Assistant Judges have been appointed. Until the alteration of the constitution, in 1850, these with other County Offi-



cers were appointed by the Legislature. The Court continued to be held at Addison until the September term 1792. At their October session in 1791, the Legislature passed an act removing the Court to Middlebury, but providing that it should not take effect until "April next," and of course the March term 1792 was held at Addison. Since that time the Courts have been uniformly held at Middlebury.

There were no County buildings in Addison, and the Court held its sessions at the houses of BENJAMIN PAINE at Chimney Point, of ZADOCK EVEREST, Esq., of JONAH CASE, and of his widow after his decease, all on the shore of Lake Champlain. The Courts were also held for some time at public houses in Middlebury; in the years 1792 and 1793 at the public house of JOHN DEMING, which stood on the ground now occupied by the Congregational Church; and afterwards until the Court House was completed, at the public house of SAMUEL MATTOCKS. The first Court House was commenced in Middlebury in 1796, but was not occupied by the Court until 1798. It was built by subscription of the citizens of Middlebury and vicinity. The jail had been previously built.

Hon. GAMALIEL PAINTER, who owned a large tract of land on the east side of Middlebury Falls, on the second day of May 1791, and previous to the removal of the Courts to that place executed to "JOHN WILLARD, BENJAMIN GORTON and JABEZ ROGERS, together with all the rest of the inhabitants of the County of Addison, and to their successors forever," a quit claim deed of the following tract of land in Middlebury, "viz., beginning at the southeast corner of a half acre lot of land, that he the said GAMALIEL sold to SAMUEL MILLER, Esq., and is the same lot where the said MILLER now liveth; thence south 30 minutes east, eight chains and ten links to a stake standing on the east side of a road; thence east one chain and six links to a stake; thence north 30 minutes west eight chains and ten links to the south line of MILLER's lot; thence west one chain and six links to the bounds begun at," "for the only expressed purpose and use of a Common never to be divided, or put to any other use." This tract is in the form of a parallelogram, about four and a quarter rods wide, extending from the house lot owned



by the late EDWARD D. BARBER, Esq., in front of Mr. WARNER's lot and the Addison House, to the house lot owned by the late REFLUS WAINWRIGHT, and now occupied by his widow.

On the 22d of May 1794, Judge PAINTER executed another deed to "JABEZ ROGERS, JOSEPH COOK and ELEAZER CLAGHORN, together with all other inhabitants of the County of Addison," of a tract of land in Middlebury, "bounded as follows, beginning at a heap of stones at the southwest corner of an acre lot of land, which said PAINTER formerly sold to SIMEON DUDLEY; thence running south, 30 minutes east, on the east line of a certain piece of land said PAINTER formerly gave to the people of said County, three chains and seventy-eight links to a stake; thence east 30 minutes north three chains and seventy-three links to a stake; thence north 30 minutes west three chains and seventy-eight links to a stake, standing in the south line of said DUDLEY's lot; thence a straight line to the bounds begun at, containing one acre and sixty-five rods," "for the express use and purpose of erecting a court house and jail thereon, and as a common, never to be divided or put to any other use." This lot lies east of, and adjoining, the lot first mentioned; and on this lot the court house and jail were erected. The DUDLEY lot, which forms the northern boundary, is that on which SAMUEL MATTOCKS built his public house, and on which the Addison House now stands; and it is understood that in erecting the present house, it was extended south several feet beyond the limits of the lot, on the land of the County.

The court house was built on the brow of the hill five or six rods north of, and nearly in a line with, the house occupied by Mrs. WAINWRIGHT. The jail house had been previously built of wood on the same line, and within a rod or two of the south line of the DUDLEY lot. It contained a tenement for the family of the jailor, as well as a dungeon and other rooms for prisoners. This jail was built by a "tax of two pence on the pound" on the list of the County for the year 1793, granted by the Legislature in November 1792, and payable into the County Treasury by the first day of December 1794." "ELEAZER CLAGHORN, GAMALIEL PAINTER, SAMUEL MILLER, JABEZ ROGERS, JOSEPH COOK, SAMUEL JEWETT



and ELIJAH FOOT were appointed a committee to receive and lay out the money."

The legislature at that time being in the practice of removing their annual sessions from one principal town to another, the court house was built with reference to their use. One high room arched overhead, with long windows, and seats rising towards the rear, and a gallery over the entrance at the west end, constituted the whole interior of the building. The General Assembly held its session in it in the years 1800 and 1806. The inhabitants of the town having contributed towards its erection, it was used also as a town room. And until the completion of the new church, in 1809, it was occupied by the Congregational Society as a place of worship, and for all meetings of the society. There being no other suitable room in the village, it was used for public meetings of every character.

By the arrangement of the roads in the vicinity and the business, which centered there, these buildings were left in an exposed condition, without enclosures, and the whole grounds around them became a thoroughfare for teams and other modes of travel. The jail, especially, came to be regarded as too unsafe and uncomfortable for the purpose for which it was designed. Accordingly, in November 1809, the legislature passed an act assessing a tax of one cent on a dollar on the lists of the several towns in the County (except the city of Vergennes, which maintained a Jail of its own) for the purpose of erecting a jail in Middlebury, to be paid into the treasury of the County, by the first day of February 1811, and authorized the Judges of the County Court to appoint an agent to superintend the erection. They appointed Hon. DANIEL CHIPMAN, who proceeded to procure a suitable lot for its site, and in December 1810, received a deed from ARTEMAS NIXON, of a vacant lot on the corner made by the road leading east from the Court House, and another leading thence north. On this he erected a jail house of stone, at a cost of about four thousand dollars. After the completion of this building, the old jail house was sold to Capt. JUSTUS FOOT, and by him was removed to the lot east of the hotel, repaired, fitted up and occupied by his family for a dwelling house. It is now owned by CALVIN HILL, Esq.



In 1814 the Court House, in its exposed condition, came to be regarded as a nuisance, rather than an ornament, and was removed to the place where it now stands. On the first of January, 1816; and after the Court House was removed, Judge PAINTER deeded to the County a tract of land, "being that piece or parcel of land, on which the Court House now stands in Middlebury, together with a free and open passage on the whole front of the same to the Center Turnpike road, so called, with a passage around the said Court House on the north, east and south sides of the same, for the purpose of repairing or fitting up the said House, or for the erection of a new Court House on the premises at all times," "for the express purpose of erecting, keeping and having a Court House for the County of Addison aforesaid, on the said premises, where the same is now erected, so long as the premises shall be used for the purpose aforesaid, and no longer," with a quit claim of the right to erect buildings on the neighboring lands within certain distances. The width of the "free passage around" the House was fixed by a deed from the Corporation of Middlebury College, who received the land by will from Judge PAINTER to R. and J. WAINWRIGHT, at one rod.

The Court House having so high a room for the sessions of the Courts, having been much racked by the removal, and being otherwise out of repair, was found to be not only inconvenient, but so cold that it could not be kept comfortable in the cold weather in winter, when most of the Courts were held; and for that reason the Supreme Court held its sessions, for several winters, at the public houses. The County Court therefore, in the year 1829, ordered SAMUEL SWIFT the Clerk, and SEYMOUR SELLICK the Sheriff, to divide the building into two stories. The Agents accomplished this purpose during that season, finishing the upper story for the sessions of the Courts, with one room adjoining for a consultation room, and three rooms below for Jury rooms and other uses, in the style in which it still remains. When finished, the Court Room was said to be the best room for the purpose in the State. The expense of the alteration was \$1250,11. The town of Middlebury paid toward this expense \$250, in consideration that they were to have the use of the large room in the lower story for a town room, and a sub-



scription was made by the citizens to the amount of \$113,50. The balance was paid from the funds of the County, received for licenses, without any tax, and a large share was advanced by the clerk in anticipation of future receipts.

In the year 1844 the belfry and roof were found to need repair, and other parts of the exterior were regarded nearly as offensive, on account of its style, as the interior had been; and the court ordered the clerk to make the requisite repairs and alterations. This was accomplished the same season at an expense of \$822,70, of which the town paid \$137. The balance was paid from the County funds, as in the case of former alterations. By means of these alterations nothing remains of the first Court House but the frame.

In the meantime the stone jail built in 1811 was found, like the old one, unsafe and entirely uncomfortable and oppressive to prisoners confined in it, and not in accordance with the philanthropic views, which prevailed; and it had been many times indicted by the grand jury. The legislature, in October 1844 therefore granted a tax of six cents on a dollar of the lists of the several towns in the County except the city of Vergennes, for the purpose of erecting a new jail, provided the inhabitants of Middlebury would, before the first day of February 1845, procure conveyed to the County of Addison a suitable piece of land, to the acceptance of SILAS H. JENSON, HARVEY MUNSILL and SILAS POND, and appointed SAMUEL SWIFT and AUSTIN JOHNSON Agents, to superintend the erection. The lot now occupied for that purpose was purchased and paid for by the citizens of Middlebury, and accepted by the above mentioned commissioners. The agents believing that, as the population and business of the County should increase, and a more speedy communication by rail roads should be opened, the number of criminals would increase; and desiring to erect a prison, which would be adequate to such an emergency, and not require to be soon replaced, adopted a plan larger than present circumstances required. They accordingly erected a large brick building, the front of which was designed for the residence of the Sheriff's family, with an office for the sheriff. Through this room is the only communication with the prison from the outside. The prison is in the rear of the build-



ing, in which are twelve cells for securing each prisoner by himself in the night, six in the lower and six in the upper range, with a large, well lighted and ventilated room in front of them, for the occupation of the prisoners in the day time. The prisoners in this room are, at all times, subject to inspection, by means of a grated opening, from the rooms occupied by the family. By the same means the least disturbance or noise, by night as well as by day, may be heard. The expense of the cells was much larger than was anticipated. The iron work alone cost about \$1500; and slabs of strong stone were purchased and hauled from Brandon, for the floors, caps and sides of the cells, from six to eight inches thick, and of the size of the length, width and height of the cells. When the legislature assembled in October 1846, the tax had been expended, the agents were largely in debt and the jail not completed. Application was therefore made for a further tax. The representatives from the County, to whom the application is by law referred, consented to another tax of five cents on a dollar,—wholly inadequate for the purpose,—on condition that the town or village or citizens of Middlebury would give a bond to the satisfaction of the judges of the County Court, to secure the payment of all the debts, and the completion of the Jail, and by the act, RUFUS WAINWRIGHT was appointed an additional agent. To him the other agents committed the whole management of the business. A subscription was raised among the citizens, the debts were paid and the prison completed, but the plan was not carried out to its full extent. The whole expense was about \$8000. After the completion of this building, the old stone jail house was sold to Mr. OLIVER WELLINGTON, who, after great alterations and at great expense, has since occupied it as a dwelling house.

From the year 1787 to the year 1825, the County Court consisted of a chief judge, and two assistant judges, appointed expressly to those offices, and was independent of the Supreme Court. In November 1824, the Legislature passed an act reorganizing the Supreme and County Courts, and providing, that the Supreme Court should consist of a chief judge, and three assistant judges, and that the County Court, "from and after the third Thursday of Oc-



tober then next," should consist of a chief judge, who should be one of the judges of the Supreme Court, for each circuit, and two assistant judges, appointed as before required by law. And the State was for that purpose divided into four circuits. The number of Judges of the Supreme Courts and of the circuits was afterwards increased to five. To the County Courts, by this act was given "original and exclusive jurisdiction of all original civil actions, except such as are cognizable before Justices of the Peace," "and appellate jurisdiction of all causes civil and criminal appealable to such Court," and "original jurisdiction of all prosecutions for criminal offences, except such as are by law made cognizable by justices of the peace;" and in such cases the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court extended only to questions of law, arising out of the trial in the County Court. The clerk, to be appointed by the County Court, was to be also clerk of the Supreme Court.

At the session in October 1849, the Legislature made a further alteration in the organization of the judiciary system. The act passed at that session provided, that the State should be divided into four judicial circuits, and that one circuit judge should be appointed for each circuit, and these judges were constituted chief judges of the County Court in each County, and chancellors in their respective circuits. These were distinct from the Judges of the Supreme Court, and, with the two assistant judges, constituted the County Court. The first circuit was composed of the Counties of Bennington, Rutland and Addison.

The Legislature at their session in October 1857, repealed the law last mentioned, and provided that the Supreme Court shall consist of one chief judge and five assistant judges. These judges are constituted chief judges of the County Court and Chancellors in the several Counties; and for this purpose it is made the duty of the Supreme Court to assign one of the judges to each County. This act substantially restores the system adopted in 1824.

By the first constitution of the State, adopted in 1777, it was provided "that the General Assembly when legally formed, shall appoint times and places for County elections, and at such times and places the freemen in each County respectively, shall have the



liberty of choosing the judges of the Inferior Court, or Court of Common Pleas, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace and Judges of Probate, commissioned by the Governor and Council, during good behavior, removable by the General Assembly upon proof of maladministration." By the amended constitution, adopted by the convention in 1786, it was provided, that the above mentioned officers should be annually elected by the General Assembly, "in conjunction with the council." And they continued to be thus elected, until the amendment of the constitution adopted in 1850. Until this time no provision was made in the constitution for the election of a state's attorney or high bailiff. An act passed in February 1779, provided "that in each County there shall be one State's Attorney, and that they be appointed by the respective County Courts." Col. SETH STORRS, then residing in Addison, was appointed by the Court in 1737, the first State's Attorney of Addison County. Afterwards the State's Attorney, as well as the High Bailiff, was appointed in the same manner as other officers.

At the time of the election of the Council of Censors in 1848, the evils of the then existing mode of electing County Officers by the legislature, had become more and more apparent for several years, and had come to be condemned generally by the people. The nomination, according to practice, being made by the County members had become a subject of traffic between the parties interested, and was subjected to an influence, which could not be made to bear upon the mass of the people. It also occasioned much delay of the appropriate business of the Legislature. Accordingly the convention, which was held in 1850, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Council of Censors, adopted the amendment now in force. This provides, that the assistant judges of the County Court, Sheriffs, High Bailiffs and State's Attorneys, shall be elected by the freemen of the Counties, the Judges of Probate by the freemen of their respective districts, and Justices of the Peace by the freemen of the several towns. The votes are to be given at the freemen's meeting on the first Tuesday of September, to be sent to the next session of the Legislature, and there canvassed by a joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives. The officers chosen



are commissioned by the Governor, and hold their offices for one year from the first day of December following.

By an act of the legislature in February 1787, the County of Addison was constituted a Probate District, and Probate Courts were established in it, and until the year 1824, the whole constituted but one Probate District. The Legislature, at their October session in that year, divided the County into two Districts, by the names of Addison and New Haven. The District of New Haven embraces the towns of Addison, Panton, Vergennes, Waltham, New Haven, Bristol, Lincoln, Starksborough, Monkton and Ferrisburgh. The remainder of the County constitutes the District of Addison.\*

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\*See Appendix No. 1. for list of County Officers.



## CHAPTER III.

## INDIANS—INDIAN RELICS.

In what we have to say of the Indians, the original inhabitants of the County of Addison, it is not our purpose to enter into any learned dissertation on their character, customs or history. Such treatises may be found elsewhere. We regard it as belonging to our province to speak only of their residence in the County, and of their depredations so far only as they affect the County and its settlement, and that not in detail. It is but a very short time since we commenced any inquiries on the subject. But from the accounts we have obtained, during our short examination, we find satisfactory evidence, in the Indian relics found in different towns, that the County of Addison was the established residence of a large population of Indians, and had been for an indefinite period. The borders of Lake Champlain, Otter Creek, Lemon Fair and other streams, furnished a convenient location for that purpose.\*

Previous to the discovery of Lake Champlain, in 1609, the Iroquois, or Five Nations, which together formed a powerful Indian tribe, claimed and occupied an extensive country south of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and the River St. Lawrence, and extending to and including Lake Champlain and Western Vermont, and previously had been undoubtedly settled in this County. It is supposed by many, that their settlement extended as far north as the River Sorel, which forms the outlet of Lake Champlain, and that the

\* In a conversation, which PHILIP BATTELL, Esq., had several years ago, with an intelligent Indian woman, she stated that the Indian names of all the streams and waters in this region were familiarly known among the Indians, and that the old Indian, who died at Bristol, as mentioned elsewhere, could have given the names. She said the name of Otter Creek, was Wunageequ'tuc, which the French called La Riviere aux Loutres, both which mean The River of Otters. The name of Lake Dunmore, she said, was Moosalamoo, Salmon Trout Lake.



river was called the Iroquois for that reason, and Champlain so represents it. But others suppose, that it was called by that name, because it came from the country of the Iroquois. When SAMUEL CHAMPLAIN, the French leader, came up the lake on his tour of discovery, in 1609, the Iroquois had withdrawn from the islands in the north part of the lake, which now constitute the County of Grand Isle, and which the Indians, with Champlain, represented, had been inhabited by them. He says, in his account of this excursion : "I saw four beautiful islands, ten, twelve and fifteen leagues in length, formerly inhabited, *as well as the Iroquois River*, by Indians, but abandoned, since they have been at war, the one with the other." "They retire from the rivers as far as possible, deep into the country, in order not to be soon discovered." And again he says, "Continuing our route along the west side of the lake, I saw, on the east side, very high mountains capped with snow. I asked the Indians, if those parts were inhabited. They answered, yes ; and that they were Iroquois, and that there were in those parts beautiful vallies, and fields fertile in corn, as good as I had ever eaten in the country." In anticipation of this expedition, CHAMPLAIN, had entered into a treaty with the Algonquins, who dwelt along the north bank of the St. Lawrence, between Quebec and Montreal, in which "they promised to assist the stranger, in his attempt to traverse the country of the Iroquois, on condition, that he should aid them in a war against that fierce people ;" and he and the two Frenchmen with him, came armed for the conflict, with muskets. The Indians described the place, where they expected to meet their enemies, and they, as well as the French in Canada, spoke of this as the country of the Iroquois. On the border of the lake, near Crown Point,\* as they expected, they met a war party

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\* Historians generally represent that this battle took place at Lake George. The editor of the Documentary History of New York, says in a note, "The reference in Champlain's map locates this engagement between Lake George and Crown Point, probably in what is now the town of Ticonderoga, Essex County." We find no authority, in Champlain's account for either of these opinions. He says they met their enemies, "at a point of a cape, which jets into the lake on the west side." We know of no other point, which better answers the description than the



of the Iroquois, who defied them. But, when CHAMPLAIN, at a single fire of his arquebus, killed two chiefs and mortally wounded another, and another Frenchman fired from another quarter, they fled in alarm, at the new and unheard of weapons of war, and were defeated.

Previous to this, incessant wars were carried on between the Algonquins, aided by the Hurons, a powerful tribe, occupying an extensive country in Canada, extending as far west as the lake from which they derived their name, on one side, and the Iroquois on the other. For many years subsequently, the latter had no aid from European Colonies or European arms. When the Dutch had possession of New York, they were too much engaged in commerce, and traffic with the Indians, to take part in their wars. But the wars still continued with great fury, between the French colonists and Indians, and the Iroquois unaided and without fire arms. The latter were particularly hostile to the French, because they had furnished their enemies with their new and deadly weapons. After the English in 1664, obtained possession of New York, they enlisted in the wars, which were still continued between the French colonists and their Indians on the north, and the English colonies and their Indians on the south, until the conquest of Canada in 1760. The Iroquois still claimed this territory, and their claim was acknowledged by the government of New York. But it does not appear, that after the discovery of the lake and their retreat on that occasion, they ever had any permanent settlement here. The Mohawks and the other confederate tribes seem to have occupied the

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cape, which runs up between the lake and Bulwaggy Bay, at Crown Point. Hon. JOHN W. STRONG, thinks the place of this battle was "on Sandy Point, being the extreme north-western terminus of Crown Point, and the entrance of Bulwaggy Bay." In one of his numbers in the Vergennes *Citizen* on "Local History," after describing the place as such "as would be chosen by the Indians for defence," and giving other reasons for his belief, he says: "The writer, in passing this place, several years ago, was surprised at the number of arrow heads, that lay on the shore and in the water, and on examining closely he found several pistol and musket balls, two French military buttons, a copper coin of the fifteenth century and two clumsy musket flints."



region of the Mohawk River, and the territory south of Lakes Erie and Ontario.\*

In the mean time, Lake Champlain and its neighborhood was a thoroughfare, through which the hostile parties made their excursions in their alternate depredations on each other. In the latter part of the 17th century and the fore part of the 18th, many of these incursions took place. In 1689, while the French and Indians were making fruitless arrangements to invade the settlements in New York, at Albany, and its neighborhood, the Iroquois fitted out an expedition, invaded Canada, plundered and burnt Montreal and destroyed other settlements in the neighborhood. The next year, 1690, the French and Indians fitted out two expeditions. One proceeded into New Hampshire, destroyed the fort at Salmon Falls, killed many of the inhabitants and took many prisoners; the other proceeded by the way of Lake Champlain, attacked and burnt Schenectady, and killed and captured many of the inhabitants. In 1691, the English and Iroquois made an excursion into Canada, through the lake, and made a successful attack on the settlements on the River Richelieu, and killed many of the settlers. In 1695, the French and Indians invaded the territory of the Iroquois, and, after several battles, in which the latter were aided by the English, under Col. SCHUYLER, they were driven back. In 1704, the English settlements on Connecticut River, having extended as far as Deerfield, the French and Indians, coming up the lake to the mouth of Onion River, and following up that river, invaded and destroyed that place, and killed and took captive many of the inhabitants.

In the meantime the English had come to the conclusion, that there would be no security from the ravages of the Indians, but by

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\* It is universally admitted, that the Iroquois claimed the whole of this territory. We think also that their claim extended, along the River Richelieu, as far as the St Lawrence, and that they had a permanent residence here. No history pretends that any other tribe settled here. But it is not improbable, that on account of the wars, which had for some time been carried on between them and the Algonquins, they had been induced to remove their residence further from the neighborhood of their enemies, at least, from the borders of the lake, before CHAMPLAIN's discovery of it. They had at least left the islands at the north part of the lake before that, and CHAMPLAIN's party did not meet any enemy until they reached Crown Point.



conquering the French, as well as the savages. In 1709 and several following years, attempts were made, through the lake, to invade and conquer Canada. And while the English and French governments were at peace, for some years previous to 1725, wars were still carried on by the Indians, aided occasionally by the English and French colonies. In 1746, while the French were in possession of Crown Point, an expedition from that place was fitted out by the French and Indians, who captured Fort Hoosick, which before that had been built at Williamstown, Massachusetts, near the southwest corner of Vermont.

During all these expeditions and until the French were driven from Crown Point in 1759, this territory, including the whole of Western Vermont, was exposed to the depredations of the Indians, and settlements in it were wholly unsafe. Even the proprietors of Bennington, who had obtained a charter in 1749, did not venture to commence a settlement of that town until 1761, after the conquest of Canada.

In the short time, in which our attention has been directed to the subject, we have collected such information as we have been able, respecting the Indian relics found in the County, as the best evidence of the extent of Indian settlements. Our inquiries have not extended to all parts of the County. They have generally been made of those farmers and others, whom we have incidentally met. And now the printers threaten to tread upon our heels, and we are compelled to stop our inquiries. But such facts as we have obtained, we present below, and we trust the reader will find in them satisfactory evidence, that the Indians once had a permanent settlement here. But the permanent settlement, we think, must have closed with the discovery of Lake Champlain, by the French leader, SAMUEL CHAMPLAIN, two hundred and fifty years ago, and the manufacture of the implements we describe, of course ended then. There may have been a temporary residence of some tribes, while the French had possession of Crown Point, or during the Revolutionary war, while the British had the control of the lake. But we have, we think, the testimony of history, that after the Iroquois were first overcome off by the fire arms, which were used by CHAM-



PLAIN and his Frenchmen, they never returned to occupy this region by a permanent settlement. Besides, after the Indians were furnished by Europeans with fire-arms and other needed implements, they had no occasion to manufacture them.

The main object of our inquiries has been to find evidence of the extent of Indian settlements in the County. But, if our time had permitted, we might have presented some other views of the subject. The want of time also has prevented our giving illustrations of some of the less common manufactures, as we intended. The following are the results of our inquiries, and the sources of our information:

Professor HALL, in his account of Middlebury, in 1820, states that on the farm in the south part of the town, on which Judge PAINTER first settled, now owned by WILLIAM F. GOODRICH, on an alluvial tract, near Middlebury River,—and his statement is confirmed to us by Mr. GOODRICH,—“are found numerous articles of Indian manufacture, such as arrows, hammers, &c., some being of flint, others of jasper. A pot, composed of sand and clay, of curious workmanship, and holding about twenty quarts, has recently been dug up here nearly entire.”

ALMON W. PINNEY, states, that in an old channel of the same river, on the old SMALLEY farm, and not far from the same place, the water had washed away the bank and uncovered parts of a broken “camp-kettle,” as he called it, holding about a pailful and a half, of the same material as the above, curiously ornamented by flowers or leaves wrought on the sides. There were also found there half a bushel of perfect and imperfect arrow heads, one of which was four inches long.

ENOCH DEWEY, states, that on his farm, in Middlebury, on which his father was an early settler, two miles southeast from the village, and west of his house, on dry land near a brook between the hills, he has ploughed up on two separate spots, chippings, or fragments of stone, obviously made in manufacturing arrow heads and other implements, together with a bushel or more of perfect and imperfect arrow heads all of grey flint.

On the house lot of the writer, in the village of Middlebury, several years ago, was ploughed up an Indian pestle of hard grey



stone, made round and smooth, and rounded at the ends, about fifteen inches long and two and a half inches in diameter.

Mr. RUFUS MEAD, editor of the Middlebury *Register*, states, that on the farm on which his father lived, and his grandfather was an early settler, in the west part of Cornwall, have been found large numbers of arrow and spear heads, from two to five inches in length, and, among them, stone chips, worked off in the construction of arrow heads, and many imperfect arrow heads, apparently made by unskilful artists, or spoiled in the manufacture; that at every ploughing for many years, these relics have been ploughed up. This locality is near a spring, and on ground sloping to Lemon Fair Flats. On this slope for some distance, the land is springy, and on several of the neighboring farms, similar relics are found. In that neighborhood was also found a stone gouge, in the regular shape of that tool, six or eight inches long, and two and a half inches wide. This tool Mr. MEAD thinks, was used for digging out their canoes, the wood being first burnt and charred by fire. The arrows, he says, were of flint, partly light and partly black; and he is confident they were made of materials which are not found in this country. Otter Creek, and Lemon Fair, which empties into it, are navigable for boats from the head of the falls at Vergennes to this place.

Deacon WARNER states, that on his farm in Cornwall, first settled by BENJAMIN HAMLIN, were found, at an early day, a great variety of Indian relics; arrow heads, spear heads, and other implements of which he does not know the use: also chippings and fragments of stone, made in the construction of the articles, and defective and broken implements. Some of the articles were made of flint stone, and some, designed for ornament, of slate. This locality is on a rise of ground near a Beaver Brook and Beaver Meadow. The brook empties into Lemon Fair, and is navigable for boats from that stream, except in dry weather.

About three quarters of a mile from the above, on the same Beaver Brook, and on the farm of IRA HAMLIN, is found similar evidence of the manufacture of Indian relics, among other things, gouges, chisels and arrows, of three or four different kinds of stone.

BENJAMIN

This statement was received from Mr. HAMLIN, and communicated to us, with specimens of the manufacture, by RUFUS MEAD, Esq., who was also personally acquainted with the locality, and generally with the facts.

Major ORIN FIELD, of Cornwall, states, that on his farm, on the road leading south from the Congregational Church, scattered arrow heads have been frequently found, and Judge TILDEN says, that on his farm, not far distant, similar discoveries have been made. Major FIELD also says, that on the same farm, then owned by BENJAMIN STEVENS, he was shown by Mr. STEVENS, in 1807, what was regarded as the foundation of an Indian wigwam or hut. It was a ridge of earth, about six inches high, in a square shape, the sides of which were eight or twelve feet long, the ridge running all around except at the east end was a vacant space, apparently designed for a door way. The earth was thrown up, to form the ridge on the outside. These ridges have now disappeared.

Major FIELD also says, that on the farm of his father, on which his grandfather was an early settler, in a burying ground on sandy land, in digging a grave in 1802, there were thrown up three Indian relics, of the same size and shape and in the form of a heart, about five inches long and three wide at the top. A smooth and straight hole, one-half inch in diameter, was bored through the length, the exterior surface being swollen to accommodate the hole. The sides were worked to an edge.

AUSTIN DANA, Esq., of Cornwall states, that on his farm, which adjoins Lemon Fair, he has often ploughed up large numbers of points, from one and a half to seven inches long, all which he thinks were designed for arrow heads, intended for shooting animals of different sizes, together with some which were broken, and a stone gouge eight or ten inches long, in the proper shape of that instrument. Pieces of the arrow heads he has often used for gun flints. He has also found, at three different springs on his farm, as many different pavements of stone, designed and used for fires in their huts, which have evident marks of the effects of fire. They are made of cobble stones, pounded down and made level and solid, like a pavement, six or seven feet in diameter. He says also, that on several



farms lying north of his, he has seen hearths formed in the same way, and obviously for the same purpose. These are always on the border of the Fair, or of brooks running from the hills into it.

JESSE ELLSWORTH, of Cornwall, states, that on his farm, near Lemon Fair, on low ground, he has found arrow and spear heads often, and a pestle. Some of the spear and arrow heads are grey, and others black.

On the farm of the late JOSEPH SMITH, in Salisbury, and other farms in the neighborhood, have been found also similar reliques scattered over the land. But we do not regard it necessary to mention further cases of this kind. Almost every farmer of whom we have inquired, has found them, more or less, scattered over his farm.

Deacon SAMUEL JAMES, whose farm is in the south part of Weybridge, and whose house is at the east foot of a ridge of land, about two miles west of the village of Middlebury, states that on the east side of the road, which passes by his house, on a dry sandy hill, near a Beaver Brook and meadow, are found many arrow heads, many of them imperfect, together with chippings and fragments of stone, which furnish evidence, that it had been a place for the manufacture of Indian implements. On the hill west of his house, was found a rounded relic, two inches in diameter, about a foot long, rounded at one end, and the other end made in the form of a gouge, two and a half inches wide, but not wrought to an edge.

PHILO JEWETT, Esq., of Weybridge, gave us a particular account of his discovery of Indian reliques, but unfortunately our memorandum of his statement has been mislaid. He stated however, that on his farm, in the neighborhood of Lemon Fair, and at a place near a large spring, at every ploughing, he has ploughed up large quantities of arrow and spear heads, and fragments of the materials of which they were made, and some broken and imperfect articles; on the whole, furnishing evidence of one of the most extensive manufacturers. He says also, that he has often used pieces of the stone, of which the articles were made, for gun flints.

COLUMBUS J. BOWDISH, Esq., of Weybridge, states, that on his farm, next north of Mr. JEWETT's, and also on Lemon Fair, and near a spring, he has often ploughed up arrow and spear heads, and chip-



pings and fragments of the materials of which they were composed furnishing satisfactory evidence, that that was a place where the relics were manufactured. He says also, that in ploughing at one time, his plough hit a stone, at the bottom of the furrow, which he dug up, and found to be a stone gouge, about a foot long. He also states, that he has found on his farm, and in the locality of the arrow heads, places designed for fires in the Indian huts, which showed the effects of fire. These resemble those described by AUSTIN DANA, except that they are made of ledge stone, and raised a little above the level of the ground.

Mr. SAMUEL WRIGHT, resides on the farm in Weybridge, between Otter Creek and Lemon Fair, and at their junction, on which his father Capt. SILAS WRIGHT, formerly lived, and on which his brother Hon. SILAS WRIGHT, Jun.,\* was brought up from his infancy. It is the same farm, on which THOMAS SANFORD was the first settler, in 1775, and on which he was captured and carried to Canada, and imprisoned. Mr. WRIGHT says, that he has often found, and ploughed up on the farm, Indian arrow and spear heads, some of which were broken, also pestles and other implements. He ploughed up, in one place, where they had been buried, a collection of them, consisting of fifteen or twenty articles, some of which he presented to us. And he says, similar relics are found on all the neighboring farms. We have a perfect spear head picked up on the farm of his neighbor, JEHIEL WRIGHT, who says that other relics have often been ploughed up there. He says also, that on the narrow strip of hard land, on the border of the streams, formed by the overflowing of the water, he has seen evidence of tillage, such as corn hills and potato hills, and that on the neighboring lands are heaps of stone, which show evidence of being burnt by fire kindled about them. These he supposes were built for their fire in the huts, to secure them from being burnt. He states also, that he learned from Mr. SANFORD, that sugar was made by the Indians, in an extensive forest of maples there, and that their sap troughs were made

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\*In the large open ground, in the centre of Weybridge, in front of the Congregational church, the friends of Hon. SILAS WRIGHT, have erected a very handsome marble monument, and surrounded it by an iron fence.



of birch bark. If there is no mistake in this, the sugar, at least, must have been made on a temporary residence of Indians, during the Revolutionary war, or while the French were in possession of Crown Point. All signs of sugar making, by the original inhabitants, must have disappeared.

Hon. HARVEY MUNSILL, of Bristol, at our request has sent us the following communication :

" BRISTOL, April 22d, 1859.

" HON. SAMUEL SWIFT—*Dear Sir* :—As it regards the Indians ever having made Bristol their permanent place of residence, for any length of time, I cannot say ; but there is strong presumptive evidence tending to show, that it has been, at least, temporarily their residence and hunting ground. For traces of their presence are marked by their having scattered promiscuously over the country many of their Indian relics, such as the stone axe, grooved gouge, chisel, spear and arrow points, and some others, the names and uses to us unknown. A stone resembling a rolling pin, was found several years ago at the southerly part of the town ; and a very perfect grooved gouge was found by my father, in his life time, and since my remembrance, which, according to the best of my recollection, was about fifteen inches in length, which was deposited by him in the museum in Hartford, Connecticut. Some twelve or fourteen of the specimens, that I left with you, a short time since,—some perfect and some partly made,—were picked up by me, on my own premises in Bristol village, within a short distance of each other, that is, within twenty or twenty-five feet of each other, and from the chips, and broken fragments of the same kind of stone, I have come to the conclusion, that they were made on the spot. I have found many others, within a short distance from this location, when ploughing, which I have from time to time given away. About twenty years ago, there were two or three families of Indians, that came from Canada, and stopped a few weeks in the woods, a little north of Bristol village, between the road leading out of the village north to Monkton, and the mountain east, and among them was a very old man, who called himself about ninety-eight years of age, and who was quite infelligent, and could speak our language so as to make himself well understood. While they were stopping near our village, Capt. NOBLE MUNSON, and ABRAHAM GAIGE, two of my nearest neighbors, and myself, visited them for the purpose of making some inquiries respecting the Indian habits and customs ; and among other inquiries, how the stone spear and arrow points were made, and where the stone, from which they were made, was obtained. To these inquiries, he said he could give us no information, for he had no knowledge on the subject. He also informed us that he had himself used a steel arrow point, and in the same shape of the stone arrow points, when he was quite young. He said it had often been a subject of conversation among their people, how the arrow and spear points were made, but he had never seen any one, who could give any information on that subject, not even that which was traditional. The stone, which I left with you, which some call an axe, he said was used for skinning deer and other



gume. The old man died very suddenly, while stopping near us, and was buried in our burying ground; the Rev. FRANCIS WHITNEY preached a funeral sermon, and all the Indians attended.

Respectfully yours,

HARVEY MUNSILL."

The stone left with us and called by some an axe, is about five inches long, two wide, and three fourths of an inch thick, and reduced to an edge on one end. We have several instruments of the kind, but generally of smaller size, and thinner. The relic which Judge MUNSILL describes "as resembling a rolling pin," would well serve the use of that household implement, and we might judge it to be designed for that purpose, if we could suppose the Indians made much use of "pie crust." As their history now is understood, it has generally been called a pestle. It is a smooth round stone, twenty inches in length, two and a quarter inches in diameter in the centre, and tapering slightly toward the ends, which are rounded. It is now in the possession of the Historical Society of Middlebury.

While commencing our inquiries on the subject of Indian relics, we saw in the possession of JUSTUS COBB, Esq., of the late firm of COBB and MEAD, an instrument ingeniously wrought, in the shape of a double hatchet, but the edges on each side were only worked down to the eighth of an inch. It is five inches long and two wide. In the centre is a smooth hole obviously designed for a handle, three fourths of an inch in diameter, and of about the same depth, the surface of the stone around the hole being swollen accordingly. It might have been intended to bore the hole through, or perhaps to fasten the handle with thongs. This relic, we understood, was found at the mouth of Otter Creek. Knowing that our friend, PHILIP C. TUCKER, Esq., is much devoted to similar inquiries, and believing him to be acquainted with all the discoveries in that neighborhood, we wrote to him for such information as he might have. His letter in answer to our request, is dated March 24, 1859, and encloses a letter from MR. JAMES CRANE, who calls it a "battle axe," and says it was picked up by his brother, GEORGE F. CRANE, at Fort Cassin, mouth of Otter Creek, "on the embankment thrown up during the last war, to prevent the British fleet from ascending to Vergennes;" that he left it in the hands of Mr. COBB, and he



adds, "I have picked up many Indian relics at Fort Cassin, and at other points on Otter Creek, in the vicinity of the Lower Falls, many of which are now in possession of P. C. TUCKER, Esq."

The first part of Mr. TUCKER's letter, relates to the same subject. He then adds :—

" This point appears to have been a place long occupied by the native inhabitants of this region. Many arrow heads and some spear heads have been found there, and whenever the ground is ploughed, even to this day, it is not uncommon to find some things of that kind. Indian implements have been found in Addison, Panton, Ferrisburgh, Waltham and Vergennes. I have stone arrow heads, spear heads, a hatchet, a gouge, and some other articles, which I cannot give names to, from those different towns. Some of the latter, I showed to the celebrated Ojibway chief, who was here several years since, in the hope, that he could enlighten me as to their intended uses. After examining them carefully, he observed, that he had never seen any article like them among the Indians, and could not imagine what they were designed for.

Among other relics, I have a roughly formed arrow head, made of copper. There is no appearance of any *metallic* tool having been employed in its formation, and it appears to have been pounded into form with stone. I think it an undoubted antique, and that it was made before the discovery of the continent by Europeans. It was ploughed up in Ferrisburgh, not more than one and a half miles from here, some eighteen or twenty years ago. As no known locality of copper exists in this region, it seems difficult to make even a rational guess, as to where the material for this arrow head came from. I have sometimes made a visit to *dream land*, on this matter, and fancied, that it originated at Lake Superior, from the mines of which I have a specimen of native copper, which any one could readily pound even with a stone, into this or any other plain form."

" From the mouth of Great Otter Creek, through Ferrisburgh, Panton and Vergennes, to Waltham, say thirteen or fourteen miles, Indian relics exist upon both banks, and have often been discovered. I doubt not they extend much further, probably as far towards the head waters as comfortable canoe navigation extended. Many years ago, I think in 1820 or 1830, I had quite a favorable opportunity to examine one of these localities. At the arsenal ground in this place, some forty rods below the steam boat wharf, there is a bluff of land on the bank of the creek, a portion of which was ploughed up at the time referred to, for the purpose of using the earth to fill the arsenal wharf. While it was loose from the effects of the plough, a very heavy rain fell, and thoroughly drenched it, disclosing quite a large number of arrow heads, and a great amount of chipping, or fragments, establishing beyond a question, that one manufactory of arrow heads, at least, was upon this identical spot. And a most lovely spot it must have been too, when that manufacture was going on."

" Perhaps it would not be inappropriate to say a few words about the material used for arrow and spear heads, and other relics. The larger portion of the arrow heads in my possession, are made of that kind of boulder, common upon our lands,



which the farmers dignify with the name of "hard heads," and which is a very hard silicious rock. Others are made from what I call *black jasper*, which is not an uncommon boulder rock in this region. I have one, which I am inclined to call *chlorite slate*, and several which, with my limited knowledge of mineralogy, I do not assume to name. My best spear head, is of a light colored stone, and is seven inches long. My hatchet appears to be a very fine grained clay slate stone, and is five inches long. My gouge is a fine one, thirteen inches long, and over two inches wide, at the cutting end, and looks as much like chlorite as any other rock."

To what uses the hatchets, gonges and spear heads were put, it is very difficult to say. Certainly the former could have done nothing effectually with wood, and tradition, I think, has not told us, that the Indians ever used the spear as a weapon of war. My own rough impression is, that the spear heads meant *fish* and not *men*.

At the time of our first application to Mr. TUCKER, a request was published in the Vergennes *Citizen*, that any persons having information of Indian relics, would communicate it to him. On the 26th of April, 1859, he wrote us again on the subject, and among other things says: "The notice in the *Citizen*, had no other results than bringing in a few additional arrow heads. One piece of information however, grew out of it, which I believe to be true, that my copper arrow head, has another of the same metal to match it, and a far better one." It was ploughed up a few years ago, in Ferrisburgh; and, although he has not been able to see it, he says, "I have no doubt of its existence." In speaking of the Indian relies in Bristol, which Judge MUNSILL has described, he says, "I have very reliable information as to the existence of similar relies in Monkton, and particularly in the region of the pond. Some thirty years ago, an Indian burying ground was disclosed in that vicinity, and some four or five skeletons discovered, which were much talked about at the time, and which I quite well recollect." Mr. TUCKER states also, that about thirty-five years ago, he was shown on the farm of NORMAN MUNSON, Esq., in Panton, what was called an "old Indian fire place," which he thinks "showed evidence of fire," and he thinks it could not have been made by any body but Indians.

In the possession of the Historical Society, are a mortar and pestle, found several years ago, on the farm owned by the late Col. JOHN HACKETT, on White River, in Hancock. The pestle is twelve inches long and two inches in diameter, and undoubtedly of Indian



manufacture. The mortar consists of a stone, eight inches square, and eight and a half inches deep. In the top is a round smooth cavity, which constitutes it a mortar, five and a half inches in diameter, and three and a half inches deep. This hollow was probably wrought by the Indians, but the shaping of the stone shows rather evidence of civilized manufacture. We do not mention either of these as evidence of a permanent and ancient residence. They were probably left by the Indians in some of their excursions against the settlers at the east. The White River would form a commodious route for that purpose.

We have indeed little confidence in any thing, except the articles composed of stone, and those obviously made on the ground, as evidence of such residence. The forests must have covered and obliterated, and time wasted all other satisfactory evidence.

Anticipating the very natural inquiry, of what materials these relics were composed, and where the Indians found them, we wished, in addition to the information given by Mr. TUCKER, relating to those in his possession, to furnish satisfactory testimony respecting those in our possession. We accordingly requested Rev. C. F. MUZZY, who has made mineralogy, for many years, a prominent subject of examination and study, to examine the specimens, and give us the requisite information. Mr. MUZZY, was graduated at Middlebury College in 1833, has since been a missionary in Southern India, and is now on a visit to this country for his health. The following is his reply :

"*HON. S. SWIFT—My Dear Sir* :—The slight examination I have been able to make, of those arrow heads and other curiosities, in your possession, has convinced me, that they are composed of Quartz Rock, Flint or Horn-stone, sometimes called Corneus Limestone, Chlorite Slate, and a species of Feldspathic, or Granitic Rock, and that they are found in this vicinity, either *in situ*, or as erratic boulders. Of most, if not all of them, I have found specimens in this town.

Believe me yours, very respectfully.

C. F. MUZZY."



## CHAPTER IV.

## FRENCH SETTLEMENT IN ADDISON COUNTY—CONQUERED BY THE BRITISH AND THEIR RETREAT—GRANTS OF LAND BY THE FRENCH.

The first settlement by Europeans in the County of Addison, was made by the French, on the east shore of Lake Champlain, opposite Crown Point, in pursuance of their plan to extend their settlements, and fortifications, and set limits to those of the English. In the year 1730, a few individuals or families, came up the lake from Canada, and established themselves at Chimney Point, in Addison, and built a block house and windmill, on the point where the tavern house now stands. The next year troops were sent out and erected Fort Frederic, on the west side of the lake, now known as Crown Point. They afterwards in 1756, built a fort at Ticonderoga. Other settlers followed in the train of the army, and probably most of them were in some way attached to the garrison. Both the French and English, regarded the control of this lake of great importance, as one of the most convenient lines of communication into each other's territory, in the northern part of America. The British, in the early part of that century, planned several expeditions through the waters of the lake to Canada, for the purpose of subduing that province to the crown of England, but they uniformly failed. After the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, a season of peace prevailed, between the English and French, which gave the French in Canada, an opportunity to improve their condition; and when wars afterwards succeeded, they were confined to other disputed territories, on this continent, by which the French were enabled to extend themselves in this direction without opposition. But during the French and Indian war, which commenced in 1755, one of the principal objects of the British, was to make an effective descent upon Canada, and for that purpose an expedition was set on



foot every year from the commencement of the war, to proceed with a large force through the lake. A disgraceful failure attended them all, until the expedition under General AMHERST, in 1759. These failures occurred through the ignorance and indiscretion of ministers at home, or the imbecility of the officers entrusted with the command of the troops. In the year 1758, more efficiency was given to the war by the appointment of Mr. PITT to the ministry. General ABERCROMBIE was that year appointed to command the expedition against the French forts on Lake Champlain, and prosecuted the enterprise with more vigor than his predecessors. He advanced as far as Ticonderoga, and made a violent assault on the fort; but meeting with unexpected obstacles, he retreated without taking the place. In the year 1759, General AMHERST, commander in chief of the British forces in America, took command of the expedition, reached Ticonderoga, and without much opposition captured the fort there on the 27th of July, and before he reached Crown Point, the French garrison had burnt their forts on both sides and abandoned them. The settlers also in the neighborhood retreated with the army, and thus ended the French settlement in the County of Addison.

The French settlers had cleared off the timber along the shore of the lake, three or four miles north of Chimney Point. Most of it probably had been used in erecting the forts and other buildings connected with them, and the cabins of the settlers, and by the garrisons and families in the neighborhood. This was probably the extent of the settlement, although the population was rather thickly crowded together. The cellars and other remains of numerous huts were found afterwards by the English settlers, scattered over the whole tract, and many of them are still seen there. On the STRONG farm were four, on the VALLANCE farm three or four, and on others two or three. The buildings of the French settlers were burnt the next year after their retreat, by the Mohawks. KALMER, the author of an early history, which Hon. JOHN W. STRONG found in Montreal, gives an account of his visit to the place in 1749. He says, "I found quite a settlement, a stone windmill and fort, with five or six small cannon mounted, the whole inclosed by embankments." The remains of these embankments surround-



ing Chimney Point, we have seen within a few years, and they are probably still to be seen. KALMER further says, that, within the enclosure, they had a neat little church, and through the settlement well cultivated gardens, and good fruit, such as apples, plums and currants. Old apple trees and plum trees, planted by them are still standing.

The first permanent settlement by the English in this County, was on that tract. This clearing and its beautiful location on the borders of the lake, were the occasion that a prosperous neighborhood was found here earlier than elsewhere, and it was for some time considered the most eligible place for holding the courts, when the County was first organized. In the spring of 1765, ZADICK EVEREST, DAVID VALLANCE and one other person came from Connecticut, and commenced a clearing on their respective farms, on which they lived and died, about three miles north of Chimney Point. They put in some crops and remained until fall. In September, of the same year, JOHN STRONG and BENJAMIN KELLOGG, came on by the lake to Crown Point, then in possession of the British. After stepping a day or two, they extended their explorations east and south, and went as far east as Middlebury Falls. While on this expedition, they were delayed by a violent storm and swollen streams for several days, until their provisions were exhausted, and they were two days without food. When they returned to the lake, STRONG concluded to settle on the farm on which he resided until his death, and which is still in the possession of his grandson, Judge STRONG. With the aid of the settlers, STRONG erected a log house around an old French chimney, near the lake. VALLANCE, in a similar manner, converted the remains of another French hut into a tenement, which he afterwards occupied, for some years, with his family. In the fall they all returned to Connecticut. In February following, STRONG came on with his family, and was the first English settler, it is said, in Western Vermont, north of Manchester, and his fourth son, JOHN STRONG, Jun., in June 1765, was the first English child born north of that place. EVEREST and KELLOGG, who were married during the winter, came on with their wives in the spring, and VALLANCE also returned with his family the same



season. From JOHN W. STRONG, mentioned above, we have obtained many of the above details. His father's family resided in the house with his grandfather, and he learned the facts from his grandparents, and especially from his grand-mother, who lived to a great age, and often amused him in his childhood with the stories of their early history.

The result of AMHERST'S expedition was, that on the opening of the campaign of 1760, Montreal was surrendered to him; and Quebec and every other French post in Canada having been conquered and captured, the whole province, by the treaty which followed on the 10th day of February 1763, was surrendered to the British government.

The French, having had uninterrupted possession of Lake Champlain for nearly thirty years, not only claimed the control of its waters, but the right to the lands on both sides of it, and made grants of seigniories to favorite nobles and officers, and of smaller tracts to others. The grants in the County of Addison were less numerous than at the north part of the lake. As early as the year 1732, a grant had been made to one CONTRE COUER, Jun., lying on both sides and including the mouth of Otter Creek. On the 7th day of October 1743, a grant was made to "SIEUR HOCQUART Intendant of New France," of a tract "about one league in front by five leagues in depth, opposite Fort St. Frederic, now Crown Point, bounded on the west by the lake, east by unconceded lands," north and south the lines running east and west. And on the first of April 1745, another grant was made to HOCQUART, lying north of and adjoining the other tract, three leagues in front on Lake Champlain, by five leagues in depth. Both these, making four leagues on the lake, and five leagues east and west, constituted the "Seigniory HOCQUART," which extended from Willow Point, near the south line of Addison, north, and included the whole of the towns of Addison and Panton, and is represented on an old English map, as extending, as it must, some distance beyond Otter Creek, and included Middlebury and other lands east of that stream. Soon after the execution of the treaty, by which the French government surrendered Canada to the British, on the 7th of April 1763, Hoc-



QUART conveyed his seigniory to MICHEL CHARTIER LOTBINIERE. As the inhabitants of Canada, by the treaty, became the subjects of the British government, it was claimed that the grants by the French government were valid, and should be confirmed by the British government, and LOTBINIERE prosecuted his claim perseveringly before the latter government, from the time of his purchase until the year 1776, before it was settled.

LOTBINIERE claimed, as evidence of his title, the "frequent clearances," and "various settlements," on these lands, which the war had not wholly obliterated; although it is probable that none of them were made under the authority of this grant. It is stated by Governor TRYON of New York, in a letter to Lord DARTMOUTH, president of the board of trade and plantations, "that when the French, on the approach of Sir JEFFREY AMEERST, in 1759, abandoned Crown Point, there were found no ancient possessions, nor any improvements worthy of consideration, on either side of the lake. The chief were in the environs of the fort, and seemed intended mostly for the accommodation of the garrisons."

The lines between the provinces of Quebec and New York, had been settled by the British government on the 20th of July 1764, at the latitude of  $45^{\circ}$  on the lake. It was finally decided, that as the territory south of the River St. Lawrence, including the lands on Lake Champlain, was owned by the Iroquois, or Five Nations, and that these tribes, by treaty, had submitted to the sovereignty and protection of Great Britain, and had been considered subjects, all the possessions of the French on Lake Champlain, including the erection of the forts at Crown Point and Ticonderoga, were an intrusion and trespass, and of course that government had no right to make grants there, and therefore the British government denied the claim of LOTBINIERE, as they did all others, for lands south of latitude  $45^{\circ}$ , but consented to give him lands in Canada.

In the meantime, all the lands, which had been granted by the French government east of Lake Champlain, had been granted anew by the governor of New Hampshire, in the name of the British crown, and the governor and council of New York had spread their grants to the reduced officers and soldiers of the army, which



had been disbanded after the conquest of Canada, on the top of the New Hampshire grants.

And previous to all these, and many years even before the settlement of the French, in 1696, GODFREY DELLIUS purchased of the Mohawks, who claimed the whole of this territory, a large tract of land extending from Saratoga along both sides of Hudson River and Wood Creek, and on the east side of Lake Champlain, to twenty miles north of Crown Point, and the purchase was confirmed under the great seal of New York; but in 1699, the grant was repealed by the legislature, "as an extravagant favor to one subject."

The Mohawks also, on the first day of February 1732, sold to Col. JOHN HENRY LYDIUS, a large tract of land embracing most of the Counties of Addison and Rutland. There is a map of this tract in the possession of HENRY STEVENS, Esq., President of the State Historical Society, of which we have a copy, laid out into thirty-five townships, with the name of each. The southeast corner is at the sources of Otter Creek, and the northwest at its mouth, and the territory embraces the whole length of that stream, running diagonally through it. The west line—and the east is parallel with it—is marked as running from the north, south 16 degrees west 58 miles 20 chains. On the back of the map is the following certificate. "Feb. 2. 1763. A plan of a large tract of land, situated on Otter Creek, which empties itself into Lake Champlain, in North America, easterly from and near Crown Point, purchased by Col. JOHN HENRY LYDIUS, of the Mohawk Indians, by deed dated Feb. 1732, and patented and confirmed by his Excellency WILLIAM SHIRLEY, Esq., Governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, August 31, 1744, divided into townships, and sold by the said LYDIUS, to upwards of two thousand British subjects, chiefly belonging to the Colony of Connecticut."

The New York town of Durham, and probably other towns in Rutland County, were originally settled under this grant. Two of the citizens, JEREMIAH SPENCER and OLIVER COLVIN, belonging to that town, in their petition to the General Assembly of New York, dated October 17, 1773, say, "That the township of Durham was originally settled by the late inhabitants, under Col. JOHN LYDIUS:



That discovering the imperfection of their title, they applied to and obtained letters patent under New York. That many of the inhabitants (of which your petitioners are) have since been compelled to purchase the New Hampshire title to their lands, under a penalty of being turned out of their possessions by a mob."



## CHAPTER V.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARTERS—CONTROVERSY WITH NEW YORK.

BENNING WENTWORTH was appointed governor of New Hampshire, in 1741, with authority from the King to issue patents of unoccupied lands within his province. Claiming that that province extended the same distance west as the provinces of Connecticut and Massachusetts, that is, to within twenty miles of Hudson River, on the third day of January 1749, he granted the charter of Bennington, on that line, to which he claimed the province extended, and six miles north of the line of Massachusetts. This grant occasioned a correspondence and mutual remonstrances between the governors of New York and New Hampshire, in relation to the rights of their respective provinces. The governor of New York claimed and contended, that the grant to the Duke of York in the year 1663, which was confirmed to him in the year 1674, after the conquest of the Dutch in 1673, and extended to the west bank of Connecticut River, settled the claim of New York.\*

Notwithstanding the controversy between the governors of these two provinces, and the opposition made by New York, to the issuing of grants by New Hampshire, Governor WENTWORTH continued to grant charters of townships, as applications were made for them. During the following five years, from 1750 to 1754 inclusive, sixteen townships were chartered, principally on the east side of the mountains. From that time to the year 1761, during the prosecution of the French war, the territory became a thoroughfare for the excursions of French and Indian scouting parties, and was, on that ac-

\* Nearly the whole history, which we have given of the controversy between the governors of New Hampshire and New York, and subsequently, between the latter and the Green Mountain Boys, is taken from original documents, in the Documentary History of New York.



count, in so disturbed a state, that no grants were made or asked for. After the conquest of Canada, in the year 1760, and after quiet and security had been restored to the territory, numerous applications were made, and in the year 1761 no less than sixty towns were chartered. In that year, all the towns in the County of Addison were chartered, except as follows: Ferrisburgh, Monkton and Pocock, now Bristol, were chartered in 1762, Orwell, and Whiting, in August 1763, and Panton, was re-chartered on the 3d of November 1764. And this was the last charter granted by the governor of New Hampshire, within the territory. The whole number of charters of towns granted by him in this State, is one hundred and thirty-one, besides several others to individuals.

Lieut. Governor COLDEN of New York, disturbed and alarmed by the great number of grants made by New Hampshire, issued his proclamation on the 28th day of December 1763, warning all persons against purchasing lands under those grants, and requiring all civil officers "to continue to exercise jurisdiction in their respective functions, as far as to the banks of Connecticut River," and enjoining the sheriff of Albany to return to him "the names of all and every person or persons, who under the grants of New Hampshire, do or shall hold possession of any lands westward of Connecticut River, that they may be proceeded against according to law."

On the 19th of March, 1764, the governor of New Hampshire, issued a counter proclamation, in which he contends, "that the patent to the Duke of York is obsolete, and cannot convey any certain boundary to New York, that can be claimed as a boundary, as plainly appears by the several boundary lines of the Jerseys on the west, and the colony of Connecticut on the east," and encourages the grantees under New Hampshire, "to be industrious in clearing and cultivating their lands," and commands "all civil officers to continue and be diligent in exercising jurisdiction in their respective offices, as far westward as grants of land have been made by this government, and to deal with any person or persons that may presume to interrupt the inhabitants or settlers on said lands, as to law and justice doth appertain."

At an early period of the controversy, and soon after the first



grant was made by New Hampshire, it was agreed by the governors of the two provinces, to refer the question in dispute to the king; but no decision had yet been made. The king had, on the 7th of October 1763, issued a proclamation in behalf of the reduced officers and privates of the lately disbanded army, directing bounty lands to be granted them. In view of this order, and the great number of grants made by New Hampshire, in the disputed territory, Governor COLDEN, about the time of issuing his proclamation, above mentioned, wrote several pressing letters to the board of trade in England, insisting on the grant to the Duke of York, as conclusive of the right of New York, and urging a speedy decision of the question. In his letter of the 6th of February 1764, he represents, that great numbers of the officers and soldiers had applied to him for grants; and in his letter of the 12th of April, of the same year, he says, "about four hundred reduced officers and disbanded soldiers, have already applied to me for lands, pursuant to his Majesty's proclamation, which at this time are to be surveyed for them in that part claimed by New Hampshire. Your lordships will perceive the necessity of determining the claim of New Hampshire speedily." It was charged also, at the time by the claimants under New Hampshire, and stated by historians of that period.—on what authority we know not,—that a petition, with forged signatures of many of the New Hampshire settlers, was sent with the governor's letters to England, requesting that the territory should be annexed to New York. In the public remonstrances of the New Hampshire claimants, conjectures were expressed, that there were "more or less wrong representations made to his majesty to obtain the jurisdiction," and that his "majesty and ministers of State had been egregiously misinformed." However that may be, in pursuance of the urgent solicitations of Governor COLDEN, the king, in council, on the 20th day of July, 1764, without notice to the opposite party, adopted an order, settling the west bank of Connecticut River as the boundary of the two provinces.

The only charter of which we have knowledge, as being issued, by the governor of New Hampshire, after the king's order, was that of Panton, as herefore mentioned, dated November 3, 1764, which



was before notice of the order had been received in this country, that not arriving until the following spring.] On the receipt of the order, Governor Wentworth, as well as the governor of New York, issued his proclamation, giving notice to all persons concerned, of the decision of the King in council, fixing the boundary. And in all his subsequent transactions, he seems to have acquiesced in the decision, and recognized the jurisdiction of New York over the territory. The claimants under New Hampshire expressed no opposition to that jurisdiction at the time, not suspecting that the titles, which they had derived from the British government through one agent, and had paid for, would be superceded by grants from the same authority, through another agent, and that, under these circumstances, they should be compelled to re-purchase their lands, under much more oppressive conditions, in order to hold them.

And such would seem to have been the views of the British government at home. The order in council settling the boundary does not seem to be a decision, as to what had been or legally was the boundary, but it says, the King "doth hereby order and declare the western banks of the river Connecticut," "to be the boundary line between the said two provinces." On the 11th of April 1767, Lord SHELBOURNE, president of the board of trade, wrote to Governor MOORE, of New York, reciting that two petitions had been presented to the King, "one by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the other by SAMUEL ROBINSON, in behalf of himself and more than one thousand other grantees," says, "In my letter of the 11th of December, I was very explicit upon point of former grants; you are therein directed to take care, that the inhabitants lying westward of the line, reported by the Lords of Trade, as the boundaries of the two provinces, be not molested, on account of territorial differencee, or disputed jurisdiction: for whatever province the settlers may belong to, it should make no difference in their property, provided their titles to their lands should be found good in other respects, or that they have been long in uninterrupted possession of them." And he adds, "the unreasonableness of obliging a very large tract of country to pay a second time the immense sum of thirty three thousand pounds in fees, according to the allegation



of this petition, for no other reason than its being found necessary to settle the line of boundary between the colonies in question, is so unjustifiable, that his majesty is not only determined to have the strictest inquiry made into the circumstances of the charge, but expects the clearest and fullest answer to every part of it."

On the 24th of July 1767, the King in council, adopted an order on the subject. This order, after reciting at length the report "of the committee of council for plantation affairs," says, "His Majesty, with the advice of his privy council, doth hereby strictly charge, require and command, that the governor of New York, for the time being, do not (upon pain of His Majesty's highest displeasure) presume to make any grant whatever, of any part of the lands described in said report, until His Majesty's further pleasure shall be known concerning the same."

While the controversy was pending between the two governments, and before the King's order settling the boundary was known, a collision arose out of it in Pownal. But the facts in the case presented a different question from that, which so extensively prevailed afterwards among other patents granted by New York. One called the Hoosick patent was granted as early as 1688. The charter of Pownal, when granted by New Hampshire, included part of this patent; and the New Hampshire grantees claimed possession of certain lands, on which several Dutch families had settled under the Hoosick patent. In August 1764, the sheriff of Albany, in pursuance of the proclamation of Governor COLDEN, before mentioned, hearing that the New Hampshire claimants had dispossessed several of the Dutch families, and were about to drive off others, went in pursuit, taking with him "two of the justices and a few other good people," and arrested "SAMUEL ASHLEY, who called himself a deputy, SAMUEL ROBINSON, a justice of the peace," and others, who claimed the land, and committed them to the jail in Albany. But they were afterwards bailed and not further prosecuted. Governor WENTWORTH being informed of this transaction, wrote to Governor COLDEN, remonstrating against it, and requesting him to release the prisoners. To which the governor, with the advice of the council, replied, that as the offence was committed "within the



undoubted jurisdiction of New York, he could do no further therein, than to recommend that the bail be moderate," and added that the controversy respecting the boundary "already lies with His Majesty."

As soon as the boundary was settled by the king's order, a large number of grants were made by the governor of New York, to reduced officers and disbanded soldiers, and others, who made application for them, and soon extended over nearly the whole territory chartered by New Hampshire. The valleys of Lake Champlain and Otter Creek, were granted principally to reduced officers, and a large territory, north of Addison County, was reserved for non-commissioned officers and soldiers. A small tract was also reserved for them in the County of Addison, near the bend of the creek in Weybridge and New Haven, and perhaps some contiguous territory.

At first the governor and council of New York, seemed desirous to encourage actual settlers under the New Hampshire grants to take out new charters under New York, in confirmation of their former titles. On the 22d of May 1765, the following order was adopted :

"The council taking into consideration the case of those persons, who are actually settled on the grants of the governor of New Hampshire, and that the dispossessing of such persons might be ruinous to themselves and their families, is of opinion, and it is accordingly ordered by his Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, with the advice of the council, that the surveyor general do not, until further order made, return on any warrant of survey, already or which may hereafter come to his hands, of any lands so actually possessed under such grants, unless for the persons in actual possession thereof as aforesaid."

Another order was adopted, July 11, 1766, by which it was ordered, that all persons holding or claiming lands under "the New Hampshire grants, do as soon as may be, appear by themselves or their attorneys, and produce the same, together with all deeds, conveyances, or other instruments, by which they derive any title or claim to said lands, before his Excellency in council, and the claim of such person or persons, which shall not appear as aforesaid, within the space of three months from the date hereof be rejected."



In pursuance of these orders, several individuals in the towns west of the mountains, made application for a confirmation of their New Hampshire titles; but much larger numbers, and nearly all in some towns east of the mountains, took confirmations of their titles from New York. We have no documents which enable us to ascertain the number or dates of the grants made, from the time of the order establishing the boundary to that which forbids further grants. It seems there was some delay on account of the stamp act then in force, the governor being "determined not to issue any papers except such as were stamped," and "the people refusing to take them on that condition;" "of course the offices were shut up," as represented by Governor MOORE, in his letter of the 9th of June 1767, in answer to Lord SHELBOURNE's letter above mentioned. But he adds, "No sooner was the stamp act repealed and the offices opened again, but petitions were preferred, by many of the inhabitants here for grants of land lying on Connecticut River." Again, referring to the order limiting the time for making application, he says, "This had the desired effect, and in a few months, petitions, memorials, &c., were lodged by persons sent up from thence, setting up claims to ninety-six townships."

Petitions had been sent up from the towns east of the mountains, for establishing one or more counties in the territory, and on the 22d of October 1765, the committee made a report to the governor and council, that, on account of the state of the country, it was inexpedient to establish counties, but they recommended to the governor to "appoint a competent number of fit persons for conservation of the peace and administration of justice in that part of the province." And on the 11th day of July 1766, an ordinance was adopted, "for establishing a court of common pleas and a court of general sessions of the peace," and judges and other officers were appointed. On the 19th of March 1768 "a large tract of land containing forty townships," was by letters patent "erected into a County by the name of the County of Cumberland." This County was bounded east by Connecticut River, south by Massachusetts, west by the highest part of the Green Mountain, and north by the same, or nearly the same, line which divides the present



Counties of Windsor and Orange. On the 23d of December 1772, it was ordered, that writs issue for the election of two representatives to the general assembly from that County.

On the 16th of March 1770, all the territory east of the mountains, and north of the County of Cumberland, was formed into a County, by the name of Gloucester, and the usual county officers were appointed. Soon after the territory west of the mountains, and north of the north lines of the towns of Sunderland and Arlington, and embracing considerable territory also west of the lake, was established as a County by the name of Charlotte; and the remainder of the New Hampshire Grants was embraced in the County of Albany. Previous to this division into counties, the whole territory was regarded as belonging to the County of Albany, and justices of the peace, and other officers of that County, exercised authority in that territory. By order of the governor and council, September 8, 1773, an ordinance was issued establishing courts, to be held in the County of Charlotte annually, "at the house of PATRICK SMITH, Esq., near Fort Edward."

The order of the king in council, staying further grants of land, seems not to have been very satisfactory to Governor MOORE, but he and his successors professed to regulate their proceedings by it, and applications were frequently made by succeeding governors to the board of trade, urging that the order might be rescinded. But the board of trade, instead of rescinding it, complain that the governor of New York "had taken upon him," contrary to the instructions, "to pass patents of confirmation of several of the townships," and had "also made other grants of lands within the same."



## CHAPTER VI.

OPPOSITION WEST OF THE MOUNTAIN—NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE INHABITANTS OF BENNINGTON—AFFAIR AT WALLOOMSIC—CAPTURE AND TRIAL OF HOUGH—COL. REED'S CLAIM—CAPTAIN WOOSTER'S GRANT—DUNMORE'S GRANT.

WHILE a considerable portion of the settlers on the east side of the mountain, seemed thus inclined to submit to the claims of New York, and accept confirmations of their charters, nearly all on the west side refused to take such confirmations under the governors proclamation, with "a quit rent of half a crown or two and six pence sterling," for each hundred acres, and with the exorbitant fees of the governor and other officers concerned in completing the titles, which it is said, amounted to one or two thousand dollars for each charter. And the controversy with New York was transferred from the governor of New Hampshire, to the claimants under his grants. These chose, rather than submit to the terms required, and pay for their charters a second time, under less favorable conditions, to defend the titles they had in such way as they must; and accordingly made their preparations for that purpose. They proceeded to organize the several towns and appointed the requisite officers, and so far as their circumstances allowed, adopted the laws of New Hampshire; but, being without any established government or law, where their peculiar circumstances required, they became "a law unto themselves." To be the better prepared for the impending crisis, the several towns west of the mountains appointed committees of safety, and these occasionally met in convention, to consult for the general defence. For this purpose they organized a military force, "of which ETHAN ALLEN was appointed Colonel Commandant, and SETH WARNER, REMEMBRANCE BAKER, ROBERT COCKRAN and others were appointed captains." Under these leaders every able



bodied man stood ready, when called on, to enter the service. Thus organized they waged an exterminating war against all settlers, under a New York title, on lands which were claimed under a New Hampshire grant, and against all persons acting officially within the territory, under the laws of the former State. All rights and powers, claimed under the authority of that State were denied and resisted. If surveyors were sent to survey lands granted under that authority, they were met by a competent force and expelled from the territory. If justices of the peace, or constables living in the territory, who had taken office under the government of New York, attempted to discharge their several duties, or otherwise interested themselves in favor of that government, the leaders with a competent force visited and arrested them, and having administered sufficient punishment, banished them from the territory. If any man, claiming title under that State settled himself down in his hut on lands claimed by the "Green Mountain Boys," they appeared on the ground, and, if he hesitated to relinquish his claim, leveled his cabin to the ground, desolated his land and crops, and left him and his family, houseless and destitute, to seek a shelter where else he might. No sheriff or other officer was permitted to serve process from the courts of Albany. If by any means writs of ejectionment had been served, as was the case in the early state of the contest, and judgments obtained in the courts at Albany, or if any of the active agents, in defence of their claims, had been indicted as rioters, and the sheriff had been sent, with the *posse comitatus*, to execute the writs of possession, or arrest the rioters, he was set at defiance by a superior force and prevented from serving his process. The inhabitants called out from the neighboring towns in New York, to constitute a *posse*, were too little inclined to use force against the Green Mountain Boys, to be relied on, and generally fled before they came to close quarters, and left the sheriff, with his few friends from Albany to fight the battles. At a general meeting of the committees at Arlington, in March 1774, it was, among other things, resolved, "That as a country, we will stand by and defend our friends and neighbors so indicted, (as rioters) at the expense of our lives and fortunes."



The claimants under New Hampshire, were not permitted, in the Courts of New York, to give their grants in evidence in defence of their claims. The Green Mountain Boys therefore, decided to make no further defence there, but to defend themselves, as they might, by force. Whenever the leaders chose to give their proceedings the forms of law, they established a court among themselves, and constituted themselves the triers, as well as complainants and executive officers, and passed and executed their own sentence.

While these proceedings were going on in the "New Hampshire Grants," the friends of New York were constantly plying the governor and council and legislature of that State for relief by complaints, petitions and remonstrances, accompanied with affidavits to sustain them, while the government looked on with amazement and were puzzled to find means adequate for a remedy. The "Bennington Mob," as they were called, had not only inspired the "Yorkers" in the territory with terror and dismay, but satisfied the New York government, that the means within their control were insufficient to meet the force brought against them. On the 19th of May, 1772, Governor TRYON of New York wrote a letter to Rev. WILLIAM DEWEY, minister of Bennington, and other inhabitants of that place and vicinity, inviting them to lay before the government "the causes of their illegal proceedings," and requesting them to appoint Mr. DEWEY and certain others, as agents to lay their grievances before the governor and council, and giving assurance of "full protection to any persons they should choose," "except ROBERT COCHRAN, as also ALLEN, BAKER and SEVIL, mentioned in his proclamation of the 9th of December last, and SETH WARNER, whose audacious behavior to a civil magistrate has subjected him to the penalties of the laws of his country."

STEPHEN FAY and his son Dr. JONAS FAY were appointed agents, and by them was sent a general answer to Gov. TRYON's letter, dated June 5, 1772, explaining the grounds of their grievances, signed by Mr. DEWEY and others; and of the same date a more detailed reply, in explanation of their proceedings, signed by ERIAN ALLEN, SETH WARNER, REMEMBRANCE BAKER and ROBERT COCHRAN. These letters were laid by the governor before the council and refer-



red to a committee, who recommended that the governor "should afford the inhabitants of those townships all the relief in his power, by suspending, until his Majesty's pleasure should be known, all prosecutions in behalf of the crown, on account of the crimes with which they stand charged by the depositions before us, and to recommend to the owners of the contested lands, under grants of this province, to put a stop during the same period to all civil suits concerning the lands in question." This recommendation was adopted by the council, and when communicated, through the agents, to the people of Bennington and vicinity, was received with enthusiasm and accepted by them as entirely satisfactory. But this promise of peace was soon disturbed and the controversy was renewed and prosecuted as fiercely as ever.

The governor of New York, with the advice of the council, issued one proclamation after another, offering large rewards for the apprehension of ALLEN, BAKER, WARNER, COCERAN, and other rioters to no purpose. To as little purpose the legislature passed severe resolutions; and on the 9th of March, 1774, a law, which, for its savageness, has no superior in the legislation of any civilized community. Referring to the riots which had taken place in the counties of Albany and Charlotte, by certain of the leaders, naming ETHAN ALLEN and others, it enacts, among other provisions, that "as often as either of the above named persons, or any other person shall be indicted in either of the counties aforesaid, for any offence perpetrated after the passing of this act, made capital by this or any other law," the governor is authorized "to make his order in council, requiring and commanding such offender or offenders to surrender themselves respectively, within the space of seventy days next after the first publication thereof;" "to one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for either of said counties respectively, who are hereby required to commit them without bail or mainprize," to the jail in New York or Albany. "And in case the said offenders shall not respectively surrender themselves pursuant to such order," "he or they shall from the day to be appointed for his or their surrendry, as aforesaid, be adjudged and deemed to be convicted and attainted of felony, by verdict and judgment without benefit of clergy."



Governor TRYON had before that, on the 31st of August, 1773, called on Gen. HALDIMAND, commander of the British forces, for a sufficient number of regular troops to quell the riots, and afterwards, September 1, 1774, a similar application was made to Gen. GAGE, both of which were declined. Application was also made to the home government for regular troops and declined.

The first open and forcible collision, arising out of this controversy, subsequent to the occurrence of the Hoosick patent, as mentioned above, occurred on the Walloomsac patent. This patent was granted to JAMES DELANCY, GERARDUS STUYVESANT and others, July 15, 1739, about ten years previous to the first charter granted by New Hampshire, and was the field on which Bennington battle was fought, August 16, 1777. The charters of Bennington and Shaftsbury covered a part of this tract, and the farm of James Breckenridge was laid on this interfering territory. "Commissioners and a surveyor were appointed to make partition of certain lots," on this tract, "for the more effectual collecting of his Majesty's quit rents." Lieut. Governor COLDEN in his proclamation of December 12, 1769, states that "the said commissioners, being employed in surveying the said lots, were on the 19th day of October last past, interrupted and opposed by a number of armed men, tumultuously and riotously assembled for the declared purpose of preventing the said partition, who by open force compelled the commissioners and surveyor to desist from their survey, and by insults and menaces, so intimidated the said commissioners, that, apprehensive for the safety of their persons, they found it necessary to relinquish any further attempt to perform their trust," and represents "that JAMES BRECKENRIDGE, JEDIDIAH DUE, SAMUEL ROBINSON and three others were among the principal authors and actors in the said riot," and commands and requires the sheriff of Albany to apprehend and commit "the before named rioters and offenders," and if necessary to take the *posse comitatus*. BRECKENRIDGE and ROBINSON, in their affidavit, deny that they resisted the surveyor, but say "a few more people assembled, a few of which had guns;" that they "forbid their running, for we held our lands by our New Hampshire charters," "and if they run,



they must run it as disputed lands." Whatever the facts were, the commissioners and surveyor quit the premises.

Actions of ejectment were soon after commenced against BRECKENRIDGE and eight others, whose land had been granted to reduced officers and others, and at the succeeding term of the circuit court at Albany, judgments were obtained against him and three others. It is said "that BRECKENRIDGE made no defence, being within twenty miles of Hudson's River;" but more probably because his land was included in the Walloomsic patent, granted prior to the charter of Bennington.

From the result of these legal proceedings, "It was hoped that the riotous spirit would subside," and commissioners were again sent to make partition of the patent, who made complaint, that "on the 20th of September they were again opposed and prevented from effecting said partition by a riotous and tumultuous body of men," "among whom was SILAS ROBINSON," and three others named. And thereupon Governor DUNMORE issued a new proclamation for the apprehension of the rioters. The sheriff afterwards reported, that in obedience to the proclamation, he had arrested SILAS ROBINSON, one of the rioters; and thereupon the governor and council made an order directing the attorney general to prosecute him. He was afterwards bailed but never tried.

The following case, among numerous others which we might record, will illustrate the character of the proceedings of the "Green Mountain Boys," or at least show how they were regarded and represented by the "Yorkers." BENJAMIN HOUGH, who represented himself as an "Anabaptist preacher of the gospel," resided in Socialborough, a New York town on Otter Creek, embracing the whole or a part of each of the towns of Clarendon and Rutland, had accepted a commission of justice of the peace, and was an active friend of New York. In March, 1775, he preferred his petition to Governor TRYON, stating his sufferings, and praying for relief, accompanied by his own affidavit, and those of other persons to sustain his petition. In his own affidavit he states, among other things, "that he was attacked by about thirty persons, a number of whom were armed with firelocks, swords and hatchets,



was seized and carried a prisoner to Sunderland," where he was kept in custody until they sent to Bennington "for ETHAN ALLEN and SETU WARNER;" that on the 30th day of January 1775, "the rioters appointed a court for the trial of this deponent, which consisted of the following persons, to wit: ETHAN ALLEN, ROBERT COCHRAN" and four others, "and they being seated, ordered this deponent to be brought before them;" "that ETHAN ALLEN laid the three following accusations to the charge of this deponent, to wit: 1. This deponent had complained to the government of New York of their (the rioters) mobbing and injuring BENJAMIN SPENCER and others; 2. That the deponent had dissuaded and discouraged the people from joining the mob in their proceedings; and 3rdly, That the deponent had taken a commission of the peace under the government of New York, and exercised his office, as a magistrate in the County of Charlotte, alledging that this deponent well knew, that they (the mob) did not allow of any magistrate there;" that the judges having consulted together for some time, ETHAN ALLEN pronounced the following sentence, which he read from a paper, which he held in his hand, to wit: "That he should be tied up to a tree and receive two hundred lashes, on the naked back, and then, as soon as he should be able, should depart the New Hampshire Grants, and not return again, upon pain of five hundred lashes." After the execution of this sentence, ALLEN and WARNER gave a certificate, that he had "received a full punishment for his crimes," and the inhabitants were directed to give him "a free and unmolested passport toward the city of New York," "he behaving as becometh."

But not to trespass further upon the province of State history, in detailing the incidents of this controversy, we add only a few, which occurred within the limits of the County.

Colonel REID, of a Royal Highland regiment, had received from the government of New York a grant of land, as a reduced, or half pay officer, on Otter Creek, including the falls at Vergennes, whose tenants had been dispossessed, in August 1772, by IRA ALLEN and others. This occurred, while the agents, who had been appointed by the inhabitants of Bennington, at the request of Governor TRYON,



as stated in a former page, were in a negotiation with the governor and council, which resulted in the conciliatory measure by them adopted. This proceeding, when it came to the knowledge of Governor TRYON, so irritated him that he wrote a severe letter to the "inhabitants of Bennington and the adjacent country," charging them with a "breach of faith and honor, made by a body of your people in dispossessing several settlers on Otter Creek," at the very time the negotiations were going on, and requiring their "assistance in putting forthwith those families, who have been dispossessed, into re-possession of the lands and tenements."

The following is the substance of the answer of the committees of "Bennington, and the adjacent country" to this letter, signed by ETHAN ALLEN, clerk, on the 25th of August 1772, in explanation of the proceedings complained of. The people, having noticed, that "Mr. COCKBURN, a noted surveyor," had taken "a tour to the northerly parts of the New Hampshire Grants," (on Onion River) "to survey and make locations on lands," which had been granted by New Hampshire, "rallied a small party and pursued and overtook him and his party, and in their pursuit, passed the towns of Panton and New Haven, near the mouth of Otter Creek, dispossessed Col. REID of a saw mill in said Panton, which by force," and without right, "he had taken from the original owners more than three years before, and did, at the same time, extend his force, terrors and threats into the town of New Haven," "who so terrified the inhabitants, (which were about twelve in number) that they left their possessions and farms to the conquerors, and escaped with the skin of their teeth." "Col. REID, at the same time, and with the same force, did take possession of one hundred and thirty saw logs, and fourteen thousand feet of pine boards," and converted them to their own use. In 1769, a man by the name of PANGBORN, built there a saw mill, and a few claimants under the New Hampshire grant, were in possession of the lands in that year. After they were driven off, REID's men built a grist mill. The committees also deny, that there was any breach of faith, as the result of the negotiations between Governor TRYON and the delegates from Bennington was not known at the time, and the agents



were not authorized to complete any arrangements, so as to be binding on the people of the Grants, until ratified by them. They also promptly refused to obey the governor's requisition to afford assistance in restoring Col. REID's men to the possession of the lands. And thus ended the result of the negotiations for conciliatory measures between the parties in 1772.

The latter part of June, or the fore part of July 1773, Col. REID, engaged several Scotch immigrants, lately arrived at New York, to settle on his lands, of which he had been dispossessed, as above mentioned, and went with them to Otter Creek. On entering upon the lands, they found several persons settled on them, claiming title under the New Hampshire charters. One of them was JOSHUA HYDE, who afterwards removed to Middlebury, and settled in the south part of that town. Col. REID, in some way, got rid of these tenants, and entered into possession of the mill and lands claimed by him. The Green Mountain Boys, learning this fact, ALLEN, WARNER and BAKER, with a strong force, consisting, as represented by the Scotch tenants, of more than one hundred men well armed, marched for Otter Creek, and on the 11th day of August, appeared on the ground, drove off the Scotchmen, burnt their houses and other buildings, tore down the mill, which, it was said, Col. REID had lately built, broke the mill stones in pieces and threw them down the falls. JOHN CAMERON, one of the Scotch tenants, in his affidavit, as to the manner in which they went into possession under Col. REID, states, "That the persons" (the tenants in possession) "did agree voluntarily, to remove from Col. REID's land, till the King's pleasure should be known, provided Col. REID would purchase their whole crops then on the ground, that they might not lose their labor, which Col. REID consented to, and paid them the full value for it accordingly." The affidavit also states, "That the deponent was much surprised to see, among the rioters, JOSHUA HYDE, one of the three men, who had entered into a written obligation with Col. REID, not to return again, and to whom Col. REID, on that account, had paid a sum of money for his crops." \*

\* Mr. THOMPSON, in his history of Vermont, in stating this transaction, says nothing about the voluntary removal of the New Hampshire claimants, and a



A tract of "three thousand acres of land on the east bank of Lake Champlain, within a mile and a quarter of the fort there," was granted under the great seal of the Province of New York, "to DAVID WOOSTER,† of New Haven, in the Colony of Connecticut, Esquire, being a captain on half pay, reduced from His Majesty's fifty-first regiment." This tract was in the north part of Addison and probably extended into a part of Panton. In his deposition laid before the governor and council, dated February 20, 1773, he states, among other things, that "on visiting these lands‡ he found five families, which had then lately settled," "some of them, pretending to have no right at all, promised to leave said lands. The others the deponent then served ejectments on, which issued out of the inferior court of common pleas of Albany. Whereupon they also submitted, and desired the deponent to give them leases of part of said lands, which this deponent consented to; gave them permission to remain on the lands, acknowledging him to be their landlord, until it was convenient for him to return and give them leases in form." He states also, "that in the month of September preceding, he went to his lands in order to give leases to the settlers," and "that upon the deponent's arrival on his lands, the settlers thereon and others, collected together in a body, about thirteen in number; when the deponent offered those who had settled on his

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promise not to return on being paid for their crops, but says, "On their arrival, the New Hampshire settlers were a second time compelled to abandon the place. Rev. Dr. MERRILL, in preparing his history of Middlebury, obtained from HYDE's family, after his decease, also a different account of the manner in which he was dispossessed of his farm. This states, that he was arrested and made his escape, and sent back word to Col. REID, that, if he was allowed to depart in peace, he would never come back to his land, and soon after sold it, and the purchaser took possession. HYDE, on his way to Connecticut after his expulsion, met ALLEN'S company at Sudbury and returned with him.

† This Captain DAVID WOOSTER, at the commencement of the revolutionary war was appointed by the legislature of Connecticut a major general of the troops of that State. Being at home in New Haven in April, 1777, when the British troops came up the sound and burned the town of Danbury, he volunteered and joined the troops suddenly raised to oppose them, and while rallying the troops under his command, received a mortal wound, of which he soon died.

‡ This first visit was in 1767 or 1768.



lands, leases, which they absolutely refused to accept, on any terms whatever; but declared that they would support themselves there by force of arms, and that they would spill their blood before they would leave the said lands." Whereupon, "being well armed with pistols," he "proceeded to serve two declarations in ejectment on two principal ringleaders," "notwithstanding they continued their firelocks presented against him during the whole time; that after the deponent had served the said ejectments, they declared with one voice, that they would not attend any court in the Province of New York, nor would be concluded by any law of New York respecting their lands."

Among other grants by New York, within the present limits of Addison county, a considerable tract of land was granted or reserved to the Earl of Dunmore, who was governor of that State in 1770 and 1771, embracing, as it appears by an ancient map, the town of Leicester and at least a part of Salisbury, from Otter Creek to the Green Mountains, and including the lake which still bears his name. On the borders of this beautiful lake, and in the midst of the romantic scenery which surrounds it, a large establishment has been recently built, as a retreat for the accommodation of summer visitors, and for the resort of pleasure parties at other seasons, by an incorporated association, chiefly under the superintendance of the late EDWARD D. BARBER, Esq. The establishment has since been purchased by a company of southern gentlemen, who are still enlarging and ornamenting it, intending to make it a summer residence for themselves and a large number of others.

While the question was pending in 1772, as to the location of the public buildings for the county of Charlotte, Lord DUNMORE's land was proposed for that purpose, especially for the reason that it was as central at that time as the state of the population would allow, and because it was near Crown Point, where military aid could be obtained to quell riots of the disaffected, if necessary. Lord DUNMORE offered, that if his lands were fixed on, he would "most cheerfully build a court house or other buildings, which may be thought requisite."



## CHAPTER VII.

### EFFECTS OF THE WAR AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON THE CONTROVERSY—CONCLUSION OF THE CONTROVERSY.

IT was well, probably, for the contending parties, that the commencement of the revolutionary war opened a new field and presented a new object for their efforts and anxieties, and checked the asperity of the controversy and the violence of the collisions. The controversy, which in the outset, was sufficiently complicated, had become more and more entangled and hopeless of settlement by every movement which had been made on either side.

But, although the commencement and continuance of the war changed in some measure the position and operations of the parties, it did not change their settled and unwavering determination to maintain their several claims. The State of New York had no thought of surrendering their claim to jurisdiction over the New Hampshire Grants. And the inhabitants of the Grants had as little thought of ever submitting to that jurisdiction; but they began more openly and boldly to insist on establishing themselves as a separate and independent State. And several circumstances at this time occurred to encourage their hopes. They had before acknowledged the sovereignty of the British government, and their right to dispose of their destiny. By the declaration of independence, that sovereignty was thrust out of the way, and Congress had taken its place. They had renounced all allegiance to New York, and did not acknowledge that government as having any authority over them. And as they had not been received into the Union, in the capacity of a separate State, they denied the authority of Congress to exercise any authority over them; until they were placed upon the footing of the other States, as a part of



the confederacy by which that body had been constituted. They were of course, in their own view, without a government.

Until this time the counties of Cumberland and Gloucester had generally submitted to the government of New York, which had established courts and appointed the officers of those counties. But there were always many individuals opposed to that jurisdiction. The idea of establishing a separate government led the inhabitants to look around them and consider their state. The condition of their land titles was uncertain. Many of them, from various causes had failed to obtain a confirmation of their titles, and they began to discover that the heavy quit rents and expenses which would be required would be an unreasonable burthen, "which," in language not very different from that of more modern land reformers "they consider an innovation upon the rights of mankind, for whose use such lands were given by a bountiful Providence, without reservation, and which ought not, in their opinion, to be charged with taxes, other than for the general support and defence of the State and government." They discovered also that the seat of government was so remote that "the obtaining of justice is rendered laborious, tedious and expensive," and that the influence of the government is "weak and dissipated," "to the great encouragement of the lawless and wicked."

It is understood that the excitement which raised the mob in March, 1775, to stop the proceedings of the court at Westminster, and arrest and imprison the judges and other officers, had no reference to the question of land titles, or jurisdiction. But it is not improbable, that the scarcity of money, and their inability to pay the heavy amount of debts put in suit, which produced that excitement, might have stimulated an opposition to the government, whose courts and sheriff were a terror to the whole community. Accordingly, "a meeting of the committees appointed by a large body of inhabitants, on the east side of the Green Mountains," was held at Westminster, on the 11th day of April, of that year, which adopted spirited resolutions against the government of New York. In the meantime, agents were sent from the west side of the mountains to encourage those rising dispositions, and ascertain the pre-



vailing sentiments of those counties, as to the establishment of an independent government.

Soon after ETHAN ALLEN and SETH WARNER returned from the capture of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, they "set off on a journey to the Continental Congress, with the design of procuring pay for the soldiers under them, and soliciting authority to raise a new regiment in the New Hampshire Grants. In both these objects they were successful." The Congress "recommended to the Provincial Congress of New York, that after consulting General SCHUYLER, they should employ, in the army to be raised for the defence of America, those called 'Green Mountain Boys,' under such officers as the said 'Green Mountain Boys' should choose." ALLEN and WARNER, notwithstanding their outlawry, repaired with the recommendation, to the Congress of New York; and that body with some delay and reluctance, resolved that a regiment of Green Mountain Boys should be raised, not exceeding five hundred men, and to consist of seven companies; who were to choose their own officers, except the field officers. "A lieutenant colonel was to be the highest officer." The committees of several townships assembled at Dorset, and made choice of "SETH WARNER, lieutenant colonel and SAMUEL SAFFORD for major."

"Knowing the value of Colonel ALLEN's experience and activity, General SCHUYLER persuaded him to remain in the army, chiefly with a view of acting as a pioneer among the Canadians."\* On the 24th of September, 1775, in an attempt to capture Montreal, with a small body of troops, he was taken prisoner through the failure of Major BROWN to co-operate with him, as agreed between them.

By virtue of his election as lieutenant colonel, WARNER promptly raised his regiment, and joined the forces under General SCHUYLER, in the invasion of Canada, and performed very active and useful services. But neither he or his officers had received their commissions from the government of New York. On the 16th day of September, 1775, General MONTGOMERY commanding the

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\* SPARK'S Memoir of ETHAN ALLEN.



forces, which were besieging St. John's, "issued an order appointing WARNER colonel of a regiment of Green Mountain Rangers, requiring that he should be obeyed as such." This, it is presumed, was designed only as a temporary appointment, and on the 20th day of November following, on account of the destitute condition of his troops, General MONTGOMERY discharged them, and they returned home. But WARNER was not long permitted to remain inactive. In January, 1776, he received a letter from General WOOSTER, after the defeat of the Americans at Quebec, commanding him and his "valiant Green Mountain Boys," in which he says, "let me beg of you to raise as many men as you can, and have them in Canada with the least possible delay, to remain till we can have relief from the Colonies. You will see that proper officers are appointed under you," and promises, that his troops should "have the same pay as the Continental troops." WARNER promptly complied with the request, and he and his troops were in Canada in a very short time, and remained there until the retreat of the American army. Through the hostility of the government of New York toward the Green Mountain Boys, or for some other culpable cause, he had received no commission, and he and his troops performed those services as volunteers. "Congress, on the 5th day of July, 1776, resolved to raise a regiment out of the troops who had served with so much reputation in Canada, to be commanded by a lieutenant colonel. WARNER was accordingly appointed lieutenant colonel and SAMUEL SAFFORD, major." \*

No event had more decided tendency to strengthen the cause of the Green Mountain Boys, and encourage them to hope that Congress would finally recognize their independence, or to exasperate the people and government of New York, than the raising of this regiment, separate from and independant of that government. Complaints were made by the Yorkers on the Grants, that this measure rendered their condition more uncomfortable and hopeless; and the government of New York sent frequent remonstrances to Congress, demanding that the regiment should be disbanded.

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\* D. CHIPMAN'S Memoir of WARNER.



In the meantime, reports were in circulation, that a considerable number of the members of Congress, were in favor of admitting Vermont into the Union, as an independent State. On the 11th day of April 1777, THOMAS YOUNG, of Philadelphia, an ardent friend, wrote a letter to the inhabitants, that after learning "the minds of several of the leading members," he could assure them, that they had nothing to do but to choose delegates to a convention, who should choose delegates to the General Congress, and form a constitution for the State." And he added, as a reason, why nothing more had been done in their behalf, "until you incorporate, and actually announce to Congress your having become a body politic, they cannot treat you as a free State."

In the meantime measures had been taken preparatory to a declaration of independence, and at an adjourned meeting of the convention, held at Westminster, on the 15th day of January, 1777, composed of delegates from all the Counties, a formal declaration was adopted, "that the district of territory, known by the name and description of the New Hampshire Grants, of right ought to be, and is hereby declared forever hereafter, to be considered as a free and independent jurisdiction or State, by the name of New Connecticut, *alias* Vermont." And at a meeting of the convention afterwards, on the 4th day of June following, it was resolved that the State should be called Vermont. JONAS FAY, THOMAS CHITTENDEN, HEMAN ALLEN, and REUBEN JONES were appointed a committee to present to congress the above declaration, with the reasons which induced it.

In pursuance of the advice of Mr. YOUNG, the delegates who had been chosen for that purpose, met at Windsor, on the 2d day of July 1777, and adopted a constitution, fixed a time for the choice and meeting of the legislature under it, and appointed a committee of safety to act in the meantime. The session of the convention was closed in haste, occasioned by the news of the invasion of the country by a formidable force under General BURGOYNE; and by reason of that event and the movements which followed, notice for the election and meeting of the legislature was not seasonably given. The convention was therefore again called together, revised the constitution,



and appointed the second Thursday of March 1778, for the meeting of the Assembly. Mr. YOUNG had recommended the new constitution of Pennsylvania, providing for a single legislative body, with some alteration of the powers of the governor's council. This recommendation was adopted. But the people of Pennsylvania soon became dissatisfied with their constitution, and added a senate to the legislature. Ours remained with little alteration until the year 1835, when it was also amended so as to provide for a senate.

Against all these proceedings the New York government sent to Congress their remonstrances. On the other hand, the Green Mountain Boys, continued to urge their claims to be acknowledged as an independent State, and to be admitted into the Union. They claimed, that in declaring their independence, they only imitated the example of the Continental Congress; that the colonies were oppressed by the British government, and they had been oppressed by the New York government; that all the civil and political institutions of the country, which had been established under the authority of the crown of Great Britain, had been dissolved by their separation from that government, and so far as the government was concerned, all were reduced to a state of nature, and were left to form such government as they might choose; and that, in this respect, the people of Vermont were in the same condition as the other territories, and had the same right to establish their own government. As early as the 15th of May 1776, and before the declaration of American independence, the Continental Congress, recognizing the disorganized state of the country, and the propriety of a legal organization, before the adoption of such declaration, had "resolved, that it be recommended to the respective assemblies and conventions of the United Colonies, where no government, sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs, has been hitherto established, to adopt such government as shall, in the opinion of the representatives of the people, best conduce to the happiness and the safety of their constituents in particular, and America in general."

But Congress was placed in an embarrassing and delicate position, "between two fires." They saw the danger of irritating either party. Their proceedings were therefore vacillating in the extremo.



What they did at one time was undone at the next; and no final decision was ever adopted by that body.

In the meantime the Vermonters continued to adopt measures to reduce the government to system and order, in its operations over all parts of the State. The inhabitants were also becoming, not only accustomed to, but satisfied with, its operation. The settlement of the State and its population were rapidly increasing and adding strength to the government, and the claims of New York were thereby becoming every year more hopeless, and the condition of the friends of that government more uncomfortable.

ETHAN ALLEN, who had been captured in Canada in 1775, and held by the British a prisoner of war, being exchanged and released in May, 1778, soon returned home and resumed his position as leader of all the active operations of the State.

The government of Vermont did not hesitate to extend its jurisdiction and authority over the adherents of New York, as well as others. There still remained in Brattleborough, Guilford, and other towns in Windham county, in the year 1779, many individuals of this class, who endeavored to oppose the proceedings of Vermont. These were taxed and drafted into service as others, and "a sum of money was assessed on those who were supposed to have done least in the war." Some "acquiesced in it rather than contend." Among other acts, the Vermont party, in the spring of that year "ordered Capt. JAMES CLAY, Lieut. BENJAMIN WILSON" and another, who were militia officers appointed by New York, "to provide a man to go into the service." But they failing to obey the order, two of their cows were seized, and ordered to be sold, to pay the man hired by the Vermonters. On the day appointed for the sale, Colonel PATTERSON, who commanded the regiment of militia under New York, with his "field officers and a considerable part of the regiment," assembled and rescued the cattle, and delivered them to the owners. Within a week or two, ETHAN ALLEN, with an armed body of troops, appeared there and arrested and imprisoned Colonel PATTERSON, and nearly all the officers of the regiment.

The legislature of Vermont, at their session in February, 1781, passed "a general act of amnesty in favor of such persons," who



had opposed its authority. Upon which those persons submitted to the authority of the State, and took the oath of allegiance. Afterwards, the legislature, for the defence of the frontiers, ordered "a quota of men to be raised in the several towns throughout the State." And thereupon the same "disaffected persons," "in the town and vicinage" of Guilford, in the southern part of the County of Windham" raised a formidable opposition "to the raising and paying of them," and for the purpose of aiding the opposition, the government of New York appointed several of the disaffected persons to "civil and military offices," who undertook to use the laws of the State of New York over the citizens of this State. Upon which ETHAN ALLEN, at the head of a military force was sent by order of the governor "to assist the sheriff of Windham County, in the execution of the laws." TIMOTHY PHELPS, sheriff, TIMOTHY CHURCH, colonel, and more than one hundred civil and military officers and privates, were arrested and brought before the courts, and five of them were sentenced to banishment, and confiscation of property, and others to fines and imprisonment.

These proceedings were occasions for new appeals from Governor CLINTON to Congress for their speedy and efficient interference. On occasion of the latter proceeding, Congress, on the 5th day of December, 1782, adopted resolutions, condemning, in severe terms, the action of Vermont, and among other things, requiring the people of that State, "without delay to make full and ample restitution to TIMOTHY CHURCH, TIMOTHY PHELPS, HENRY EVANS, WILLIAM SHATTUCK, and such others as have been condemned to banishment, or confiscation of estate, or have been otherwise deprived of property," "and that they be not molested in their persons or properties, on their return to their habitations in the said district."

These resolutions were answered in a very spirited letter from Governor CHITTENDEN, denying the authority of Congress to interfere in the internal proceedings of Vermont, containing a very able argument in justification of their measures, and promptly refusing to obey the requirement of Congress. The General Assem-



bly also adopted a letter to Congress, embracing more concisely the same sentiments.

These are among the last acts of interference, in the affairs of Vermont, on the part of Congress, or the New York government. The legislature of that State, on the first day of March, 1786, thought proper to make the compensation, which Vermont had refused, to the last mentioned sufferers; and granted them a township of land in the county of Chenango, eight miles square, named Clinton, now Bainbridge.

In the meantime the people of Vermont, with quiet and undisturbed prosperity, continued to press forward in their career of separate and independent existence, with increasing indifference to the hostility or favor of any exterior power. At length on the 15th day of July, 1789, the legislature of New York, tired of the fruitless controversy, giving up all hope of reducing the territory to her jurisdiction, and desirous, it is said, of increasing the northern influence in Congress, which Vermont might bring, passed an act appointing commissioners, with full power to acknowledge her independence, and settle all existing controversies. On the 22d of October following, the legislature of Vermont appointed commissioners on their part with similar powers.\* On the 7th of October, 1790, the commissioners agreed upon the boundaries and the terms of settlement; that Vermont should be admitted into the Union, and on such admission all claims to jurisdiction on the part of New York, should cease, and as a compensation to those, who claimed lands under New York, Vermont should pay thirty thousand dollars. On the 28th of the same month, the legislature of Vermont passed an act, accepting the boundaries and settlement, and agreeing to pay \$30,000. On the 10th of January, 1791, a convention of delegates chosen for the purpose, passed and subscribed a resolution, "approving, assenting to and ratifying" the

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\* The commissioners appointed on the part of New York were ROBERT YATES, JOHN LANSING, Jr., GULIEN VERPLANK, SIMEON DEWITT, EBERHT BENSON, and MELANCTON SMITH, and on the part of Vermont, ISAAC TICHENO, STEPHEN R. BRADLEY, NATHANIEL CHIPMAN, ELIJAH POINE, IRA ALLEN, STEPHEN JACOB and ISRAEL SMITH.



Constitution of the United States; and on the 18th day of February of that year, Congress passed an act, "that on the 4th day of March" following, "the State of Vermont shall be received and admitted into the Union, as a new and entire member of the United States of America."



## CHAPTER VIII.

## INCIDENTS OF THE WAR IN THE COUNTY OF ADDISON.

THE revolutionary war, which had been ended, some years before Vermont was admitted to the Union, furnished but few incidents, which can properly constitute a part of the history of Addison County. Very few permanent settlements had been made in the county before its commencement. It is said that JAMES MCINTOSH, a Scotchman, commenced a settlement in territory now in the city of Vergennes, in the year 1766; and other settlements were made on the creek above the falls in New Haven, now Waltham, as early as 1769. Col. JOHN CHIPMAN, in 1766 made a small clearing on his farm in Middlebury, but did not return to it, with his family, until 1773; and in the latter year several other families were settled in that town. And it is said that in the charter limits of Middlebury, there were thirteen families, and in that part of Cornwall, afterwards annexed to Middlebury, eight families, before the war. Col. PHILIP STONE commenced preparation for a settlement on the border of the lake in Bridport in 1768, and several other families were settled in that town before the war. JOHN CHARTIER also commenced some improvements, on the south end of Mount Independence in Orwell some years before the war, but no permanent settlements, we believe, were made in that town until after the war. As stated on a previous page, JOHN STRONG, ZADOC EVEREST, DAVID VALLANCE, BENJAMIN KELLOGG, and probably a few others, had made preparations for a settlement, on the borders of the lake in Addison, in 1765, and took possession with their families in 1766. The late SQUIRE FERRIS, of Vergennes, in a statement made to PHILIP C. TUCKER, Esq., to which we have referred elsewhere, says that his father, PETER



FERRIS, came to and settled on the shore of the lake in Panton, in 1765. Mr. FERRIS, and his wife came through the woods from Bennington County, on horse back, he carrying his son SQUIRE then two years old in his arms; and that there were then no settlements on the lake, and that the nearest, and only neighbors were the British garrison at Crown Point. A few other families were settled there before the war. The first settlements, by families, in Whiting and Leicester, were in 1773, in Cornwall and Monkton in 1774; in Weybridge, and in that part of New Haven, since annexed to Weybridge, in 1775. In no other towns in the County had permanent settlements been made at that time; and in the towns mentioned, the number of families was small.

After the retreat of the American troops from the disastrous expedition into Canada, in 1776, and especially after General BURGOYNE, in 1777, with his formidable army, came up the lake, sweeping away every resistance before him, a large proportion of the settlers deserted their farms, and removed to places of greater safety at the south. The lake and its forts being in possession of the British, the whole country lying opposite was exposed to marauding and foraging parties of British, Indians and tories, who plundered and carried off all such moveable property as was left behind and desired by them. And in 1777, while the British were in quiet possession of the forts, before the surrender of BURGOYNE in October of that year, several of the men were taken captive; and such as remained in captivity until the occurrence of that event were then released. The family of Col. STONE, living on the lake shore, in Bridport, was, among others in that region, frequently annoyed by bodies of Indians, who visited them for plunder. But as they did not generally, molest the women and children, except for plunder, he kept out of the way and remained safe for some time. But in October 1777, having been falsely charged by a tory, as being concerned in burning his house, a British vessel in the lake sent a boat on shore, captured him and carried him a prisoner to Ticonderoga, where he was confined about three weeks, and until the fort was evacuated after the surrender of BURGOYNE.



SAMUEL BLODGETT, a son of ASA BLODGETT, an early settler in Cornwall, now Middlebury, had built him a log house, just over the present line between Middlebury and Cornwall, where he resided many years afterwards. About the same time, in 1777, a scouting party came upon him and took him prisoner, tied him to a tree, and threatened to burn him. But being a freemason, he made himself known to the British officer commanding the party, who was also a mason, and he was released and taken to Ticonderoga, where he was set to work with a team.

At the same time JAMES BENTLEY senior, who had settled in Middlebury, and his daughter were at the house of BLODGETT, and to escape from the Indians, he crawled into a hollow log, and the women threw brush over the entrance and so effectually concealed him, that he escaped.

The following account of the capture of ELDAD ANDREWS, taken in 1777, at the same time as SAMUEL BLODGETT, was furnished by Mr. RUFUS MEAD, who obtained it from those who received it directly from Mr. ANDREWS:

ELDAD ANDREWS, one of the first three settlers in Cornwall, was taken by Indians, and carried across the lake. The savages came to his house, while he was in the field at work; finding Mrs. A. engaged in making cheese they devoured the curd and everything eatable in the house, without committing any personal violence. Leaving the house, they captured Mr. A. and took him to Ticonderoga. He was at length released and an Indian deputed to row him across the lake. Mr. A. had not gone far before he discovered the Indian on his trail, and the conclusion was that the Indian coveted his scalp. He made no sign however, but armed himself with a heavy club. As twilight came on, he passed a deep ravine, in going into which he passed over a large fallen tree, and laid down behind it concealed. His pursuer was soon standing over him on the log. ANDREWS was a man of great physical strength, and did not give the savage a long time to ascertain his whereabouts. When with a heavy blow with his club on the side of his head, he leveled the Indian, and marched home without further molestation, and without inquiring the fate of his pursuer.



JOSHUA GRAVES and his son JESSE GRAVES, while hoeing corn on the bank of the creek in Salisbury, on the farm since owned by the late J. S. SMITH, on which they were among the earliest settlers in that town, were captured at the same time by about two hundred Indians. The widow of JOSEPH SMITH was a daughter of the younger, and grand-daughter of the elder, GRAVES; and the farm has ever remained in the family. The captives were taken to the settlement of JEREMIAH PARKER in Leicester, where he and his son, JEREMIAH PARKER, Jun. were also captured, and all the prisoners were taken to Ticonderoga. The two elder captives were soon released; but the two younger were detained prisoners, on board a vessel, for three weeks, until there was time to send to Canada and get a return.

ASA BLODGETT, father of SAMUEL BLODGETT, above mentioned, who had settled on the creek in the south part of Cornwall, and remained after the general retreat of the inhabitants, was taken prisoner also by the Indians. His captors placed him on a stump, with a rope around his neck, the end of which was thrown over the limb of a tree. He remained in this position for some time, expecting instant death, with which the Indians threatened him; but he was afterwards released. The facts we have stated relating to the capture of ASA and SAMUEL BLODGETT, and the escape of BENTLEY, were received from the late ABRAHAM WILLIAMSON of Cornwall, and his wife, who was a daughter of SAMUEL BLODGETT.

But the most serious and extensive depredations, on the inhabitants of the County were committed in the fall of 1778. In the early part of November in that year, a large British force came up the lake in several vessels, and thoroughly scoured the country on both sides. Such of the men as had the temerity to remain on their farms until that time they took prisoners, plundered, burnt, and destroyed their property of every description, leaving the women and children to take care of themselves as they could, in their houseless and destitute condition. Not a town in the County, where any settlements had been made, escaped their ravages. The only building in Middlebury, not wholly destroyed, except two or three in the southeast part of the town, which they seem not to have found, was



a barn of Col. JOHN CHIPMAN, which had been lately built of green timber, which they could not set on fire and which they tried in vain with their imperfect tools to cut down. The marks of their hatchets, on the timbers, are still to be seen.

As there are no public documents or history, within our knowledge which give any general account of these proceedings, in other towns, and all the persons concerned in the transactions are supposed to be dead, we have collected information from such sources as were in our power; and instead of condensing it into a continuous narrative, we choose to give it as we have received it from the several sources.

The following statement was made by PHILIP C. TUCKER, Esq.; of Vergennes, principally from information obtained by him, at our request, from NATHAN GRISWOLD and ASAPH GRISWOLD, sons of NATHAN GRISWOLD, one of the captives:

"In the month of November 1778, the following persons of the north and west portions of Addison County were taken prisoners by the British forces, and transported on board British vessels to Canada: NATHAN GRISWOLD, taken in that part of New Haven which is now Vergennes, JOHN GRISWOLD and ADONIAH GRISWOLD, in that part of New Haven which is now Waltham, and DAVID GRISWOLD, of New Haven. These four men were brothers; ELI ROBERTS and DURAND ROBERTS, father and son, were taken at Vergennes; PETER FERRIS and SQUIRE FERRIS, father and son, of Panton, were taken on the west side of Lake Champlain, while hunting; JOSEPH HOLCOMB, ELIJAH GRANDY and —— SPALDING at Panton, JOHN BISHOP at Monkton and —— HOPKINS at New Haven. These were part of the captives taken during the fall of 1778, consisting in all of two hundred and forty-four. They were all taken to Quebec and imprisoned. Tradition says, that but forty-eight were brought back in June 1782, and exchanged as prisoners of war at Whitehall."

"Of the thirteen persons above named, all returned but one. JOHN GRISWOLD Jun. enlisted on board a British vessel at Quebec, upon a promise, that he should be restored to his liberty, on the arrival of the vessel in Ireland. He was never heard of afterward.

Samuel Hopkins of Addison Co.



All these men are believed to be now dead. The deaths of those known are as follows: NATHAN GRISWOLD, died at Waltham, July 17, 1811, aged 85 years; DAVID GRISWOLD, at New Haven, August 11, 1820, in his 60th year; ADONIJAH GRISWOLD, at Green County, Illinois, in 1847, aged 88 years; ELI ROBERTS, at Vergennes, in 1806, age unknown; DURAND ROBERTS, at Pittsburgh, in 1817, aged 57 years; PETER FERRIS, at Panton, in 1811, aged 92 years; SQUIRE FERRIS, at Vergennes, March 12, 1849, aged 87 years."

The following information was communicated by MILO STOW, Esq., of Weybridge, son of CLARK STOW, one of the captives mentioned below, and published in the Middlebury *Register*, August 30, 1854. A short memorandum, which we have seen in their family records, of their capture, imprisonment, and the death of DAVID STOW, in the hand-writing of CLARK STOW, authenticates the principal facts.

"November 8, 1778, a marauding party of British, Indians and Tories, invaded the quiet homes of four families in this vicinity, being the only inhabitants in Weybridge, burned their houses and effects, killed their cattle and hogs, and took THOMAS SANFORD, and his son ROBERT, DAVID STOW and his son CLARK, CLAUDIUS BRITTEL and his son CLAUDIOUS, and JUSTUS STURDEVANT, and carried them prisoners to Quebec. The four wives and their young children, for eight or ten days, occupied an out-door cellar of Mr. SANFORD, at this place, till our troops from Pittsford came to their rescue. DAVID STOW died in prison, December 31st, 1778. THOMAS SANFORD, and two others from Vermont, GIFFORD and SMITH, escaped from prison, and after wandering through Maine and New Hampshire, reached their families. The rest of the prisoners, after extreme suffering were discharged in 1782." \*

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\* A handsome marble monument has recently been erected on the site of the out-door cellar, in which the women and children found shelter, in memory of the captivity of these men. The pedestal, base, die and cap, make the height about eight feet. The above is the inscription on one side.

Not far from this monument, is a remarkable slide, on the bank of Otter Creek. It occurred in the fore part of July, 1819. CHARLES WALES, with his family and mother resided in a house on the ground, and in the course of the day, the house



The following, in addition to the above, we have received directly from Mr. STOW. The prisoners, on their arrival at Quebec, were for a time kept on board a prison ship; but were afterwards removed to a prison on land. While there they dug through the walls of the prison and escaped, but were retaken and recommitted, except THOMAS SANFORD and one or two others from Vermont, who, after wandering a long time through the wilderness of New Hampshire and Maine reached their families.\* Those who were recommitted dug nearly through the wall a second time, and a large proportion of them, in the spring of 1780, were sent ninety miles down the St. Lawrence, and were there set to work. But CLARK STOW, being then young, was selected by a French lady, and employed by her as a house servant, until he, with the rest, was exchanged and released in 1782. After his release in October he went to Great Barrington, Mass., to which the family had removed, and in March, 1783, they returned to Weybridge.

The following account of the capture of some of the inhabitants of Bridport, their imprisonment and escape, we have abridged from the account of Bridport, given by MR. THOMPSON, in the first edi-

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seemed to tremble and crack, for which the inmates could not account. But in the evening they became alarmed, and left the house, but MR. WALES stood still on the ground. Between nine and ten o'clock in the evening, the land, to the extent of nearly two acres, suddenly sank about eighteen feet perpendicularly, the man going down with it was not hurt, but escaped to the bank. The house went down and was shattered to pieces, and the cellar and chimney were never found. The bank of the creek rested on a body of blue clay, which was crushed out by the incumbent soil and ejected into and across the river, forming a solid and impenetrable dam, which stayed the whole current of the creek, until nine or ten o'clock the next morning. A similar slide of less extent took place since, near by, on the farm of BENJAMIN WALES, and near his house.

\* We have the following story from undoubted authority. When MR. SANFORD was captured he had two horses and a colt which were left behind without any one to take care of them. He returned, as related above, after three years absence, expecting to find his horses dead. But he found them alive, except the colt, which the Indians shot. They had lived on the Beaver Meadows, in the neighborhood, and were found some distance from where SANFORD left them. They had become very wild; but SANFORD had given each of them a name, and when he called them by their names they came to him and were easily taken, they recognizing either their names or their master's voice.



tion of his Gazetteer. The facts, it is presumed, were obtained from some of the party, as all but one were then alive.

NATHAN SMITH, MARSHALL SMITH and JOHN WARD, who had just been married, who had ventured to remain on their farms, in Bridport, while most of the inhabitants had removed, being together on the 4th day of November, 1778, were taken by a party of British, under Major CARLETON. He collected in that vicinity thirty-nine prisoners, men and boys. They were put on board a vessel in the lake and carried prisoners to Canada. They reached Quebec December 6, and were kept in prison sixteen months and nineteen days. In the spring of 1780, after two dreary winters, in which several of the party died, the prisoners had liberty to remove thirty leagues down the River St. Lawrence, to work. About forty went, among whom were the two SMITHS and WARD. They landed the first of May, on the south side, where the river was twenty-seven miles wide. In the night of the 13th, eight of the prisoners took a batteau and crossed the river and landed in a perfect wilderness. They here separated into two parties, JUSTUS STURDEVANT, of Weybridge joining the three Bridport men. They traveled by night, and when in the neighborhood of settlements, secreted themselves in the woods by day. They occasionally met Frenchmen, who appeared friendly; but on the 20th, when nearly opposite Quebec, they called on two Frenchmen for aid in crossing a swollen river. One of them stated that he was an officer, and dared not let them pass. He seized his gun and declared them prisoners. The other took up an axe, and both stood against the door to prevent their escape. NATHAN SMITH said to his comrades, "we must go," and seized the man with the gun, and the other prisoners laid hold of the other Frenchman, and they thrust them aside, and all escaped except STURDEVANT, who remained a prisoner until the close of the war. Some days after, four Indians, armed with guns and knives, came upon them, but they sprang into the woods and escaped, and traveled all night until noon the next day, when being not far from Three Rivers, they lay down and slept. But soon each was awakened by an Indian having fast hold of him. They were committed to prison at Three Rivers. Three sides of



the prison were of stone, the other of wood. After being in prison three weeks, they began to cut into the wooden wall with a jack-knife, and in a week had cut through it sufficiently to escape into an adjoining room. Having drawn a week's provisions, they cut up their bed clothes, and let themselves down, so near the window of the room below, that they saw the officers there assembled, and were not more than a rod from the sentinel in his box. Thence they continued to travel by night, and lay by in the day time. To supply themselves with food, they took a lamb in one place and a turkey and other fowls in others. They kept off from the river to avoid the Indians, who they learned were in pursuit of them, and had been offered a bounty for their apprehension. They at length crossed the St. Lawrence and traveled to the River Sorel, and thence through the wilderness, with incredible hardships and suffering, having killed an ox on the way for their sustenance, and at length arrived at the house of ASA HEMENWAY, in Bridport, which alone had survived the desolations of the war. The next day they reached the picket fort at Pittsford. From the time of their escape, ninety miles below Quebec, including their imprisonment, they had not changed their clothes, and had few left to be changed.

The following graphic account of the capture and imprisonment of PETER FERRIS, and his son SQUIRE FERRIS, with some antecedent and accompanying events, is an extract from an article published in the "Vergennes Vermonter," February 26, 1845, which was written by PHILIP C. TUCKER, Esq. The facts contained in it were communicated to him by SQUIRE FERRIS in his lifetime.

"In October, 1776, upon the retreat of General ARNOLD up the lake with the American fleet, after the battles fought near Valcour Island, he run the remaining part of his vessels, four gun boats and the galley, "Congress," which ARNOLD himself commanded, into a small bay, which still bears the name of "Arnold's Bay," and the shores of which were upon Mr. FERRIS's farm. Some of the remains of those vessels are yet visible, though they were all partly blown to pieces and sunk when ARNOLD abandoned them. An incident of their destruction, not known to history, is



related by SQUIRE FERRIS, a son of Mr. FERRIS, then in his fourteenth year. Lieutenant GOLDSMITH of ARNOLD's galley had been severely wounded in the thigh by a grape shot in the battle near Valcour Island, and lay wholly helpless on the deck, when the orders were given to blow up the vessels. ARNOLD had ordered him to be removed on shore, but by some oversight he was neglected, and was on the deck of the galley when the gunner set fire to the match. He then begged to be thrown overboard, and the gunner, on returning from the galley, told him he would be dead before she blew up. He remained on deck at the explosion, and his body was seen when blown into the air. His remains were taken up and buried on the shore of the lake. To the credit of ARNOLD, he showed the greatest feeling upon the subject, and threatened to run the gunner through on the spot. The British fleet arrived at the mouth of the bay before the explosion of ARNOLD's vessels, and fired upon his men on the shore, and upon the house of Mr. FERRIS, which stood near the shore. Some grape shot and several cannon shot struck Mr. FERRIS's house. Mr. FERRIS and his family returned with ARNOLD to Ticonderoga; from whence they afterwards went, for a short time for safety, to Schaghticoke in the State of New York. All Mr. FERRIS's moveable property at Panton was either taken or destroyed by the British. His cattle, horses and hogs were shot, and his other property carried off. His orchard trees were cut down, his fences burnt, and nothing left undestroyed, but his house and barn."

"After some weeks had elapsed Mr. FERRIS returned to the remains of his property, and endeavored to repair his injuries, so far as possible. He had restored his fences to preserve a crop of winter grain sowed the previous autumn, and had got in his spring crops, when in the month of June following, the army of General BURGOYNE came up the lake. A considerable portion of the army, commanded by General FRASER, landed at Mr. FERRIS's farm, encamped there for the night, and utterly destroyed them all. Two hundred horses were turned into his meadows and grain fields, and they were wholly ruined. Gen. FRASER had the civility to promise indemnity, but that promise yet waits for its fulfilment.



"In the autumn of 1776, Mr. Ferris and his son, Squire Ferris, assisted in the escape of Joseph Everest and Phineas Spalding from the British schooner Maria of sixteen guns, then lying at anchor off Arnold's Bay. These two men were Americans, who had been seized in Panton and Addison, and made prisoners for favoring the American cause. Both were taken from the schooner in a dark night and conveyed on shore in a small canoe. Squire Ferris, the son, was also of a small party in the winter of 1776-77, who seized upon two Englishmen, supposed to be spies, near the mouth of Otter Creek, and delivered them into the hands of Gen. St. Clair at Ticonderoga."

"In the year 1778, the British made a general capture of all the Americans they could reach on the shores of Lake Champlain, who were known to be friendly to the revolutionary cause. In November of that year, Mr. Ferris and his son started upon a deer hunt, on the west side of the lake. When near the mouth of Putnam's Creek, about six miles south of Crown Point, they were seized by a body of British soldiers and tories, commanded by Colonel Carleton, and carried on board the schooner Maria, then lying at Crown Point, near the mouth of Bulwaggy Bay. They were the first prisoners taken in the great attempt of the British to sweep the shores of the lake of those inhabitants, who were friendly to the republican cause. On the same night, detachments from this vessel burnt nearly all the houses along the lake from Eridport to Ferrisburgh, making prisoners of the male inhabitants, and leaving the women and children to suffering and starvation. Mr. Ferris's house and all his other buildings were burnt. Forty persons were brought on board the next day: and within a few days, the number reckoned two hundred and forty-four; part of which were put on board the schooner Carleton of sixteen guns, which then lay at the mouth of Great Otter Creek. The forces, which came out in the Maria and Carleton, were originally destined for an attack upon Rutland, but their object having become known by the escape of an American prisoner, Lieut. Benjamin Everest, that project was abandoned, and they were employed in desolating the country, and stripping it of its inhabitants. The vessels proceeded with their prisoners to St.



Johns; from thence they were marched to Sorel, and it was the intention of the captors to have continued their march down the St. Lawrence to Quebec. At Sorel they crossed the St. Lawrence, and soon after a heavy snow storm came on, which making it impossible to continue the march, trains were seized in all directions, and on these they were driven to Quebec. Here they were confined in prison. Soon after some of them having contrived to escape, they were divided, and about one hundred of them were sent down the river one hundred miles and employed in getting out timber for building barracks. Mr. Ferris and his son were sent among this number in the month of January 1779. In the spring following nine of the prisoners, among whom were Mr. Ferris and his son, seized a batteau in the night, in which they crossed to the east side of the river, where it was fifteen miles wide. On landing they set the batteau adrift, separated into two parties, and made the best of their way up the river. They had brought provisions with them, and avoiding the settlements, and traveling only in the night, the party, with which the two Ferrises remained, arrived opposite the Three Rivers on the fourth day. They crossed in the night, but were discovered and retaken. The remainder of the party did not get so far, having been retaken by a body of Indians in the neighborhood of Quebec. The party of the Ferrises were put into jail at Three Rivers, where they remained eighteen months. During this time they made one attempt to escape, but were discovered and were then placed in a dungeon for seventy-two days. At this time the father and son were separated.

"Squire Ferris, the son, describes the dungeon where he was confined, as an apartment eight feet by ten, and so low that he could not stand up in it, and that the one occupied by his father adjoined it, and was of the same character. The only light was admitted by a small hole about eight by ten inches in size, which was crossed by iron grates. The hole which admitted this light was level with the ground, and the water from the eaves of the jail poured through it into the dungeon, whenever it rained. The straw given them to sleep on was frequently wet in this way, and the confined air, dampness and filth, not to be avoided, made their suffer-



ings of the severest kind. While they were confined here, another place was prepared for them, to which they were transferred after the dungeon suffering of seventy-two days. This place was opposite the guard room, and upon being removed to it, they were told, 'you damned rebels, you can't get out of this.' Here the father and son were again put together in the same room. The place was not however so impregnable as was supposed, for in about six weeks the prisoners made an excavation under the wall, in the night, and made their escape. There were six prisoners in the room at this time. Upon escaping, the parties separated, Mr. Ferris and his son remaining together. They went up the river nearly opposite Sorel, where, two days afterwards, they crossed the St. Lawrence in a canoe, and took to the woods. Their design was to reach New Hampshire, but having lost their way in the woods they struck Missisque River, down which they went a few miles, and were again retaken by a British guard, who were with a party getting out timber, and by them were carried again prisoners to St. Johns. They were taken twenty-one days after their escape, and had been nineteen days in the woods, during all which time they had only a four pound loaf of wheat bread, one pound of salt beef and some tea for food. They made their tea in a tin quart cup, and produced fire by a flint and the blade of a jack-knife. For four days before they were retaken, they had nothing for food but tea, and were so weak they could hardly walk. The forces at St. Johns were then commanded by Col. St. Leger, a brutal drunkard, who ordered the prisoners to be ironed together, and put them in a dungeon for fourteen days. At the end of which time, and ironed hand in hand to each other, they were sent to Chamblee, and from there by the rivers Sorel and St. Lawrence to Quebec. At Quebec they were returned to their old prison, in which they remained until June 1782, when they were brought from thence to Whitehall and there exchanged for British prisoners. From their capture to their exchange was three years and eight months.

After the escape of the Ferrises from below Quebec, the prisoners, which remained in prison at Quebec were divided, and a part placed on board a prison ship in the river. Soon afterward, camp fever, as



it was then called, broke out among them, and many of them died. Of the two hundred and forty-four prisoners taken in the neighborhood of Lake Champlain, in November 1778, and carried to Canada in the schooners Maria and Carleton, only forty-eight were known to have returned. The elder Ferris died in the year 1811, at the age of ninety-two; and of the other forty-seven, Squire Ferris, of Vergennes, his son and fellow prisoner, is supposed to be the only survivor.\* Several of these prisoners received pensions from the general Government, but Squire Ferris, their companion in sufferings, though poor and needy, and though an applicant for many years, has never received the bounty of his country." Besides those mentioned above, the following persons, of whose captivity we have no definite information, were taken and carried to Quebec at the same time: Benjamin Kellogg and Joseph Everest, of Addison.

Major Orin Field, of Cornwall, has furnished us with a detailed and interesting account of the capture and imprisonment of the late Benjamin Stevens, of that town, as he received it from Mr. Stevens, a relative, in whose family he resided. He was captured with three others, in a boat on Lake Champlain, near Split Rock, in Charlotte, in May, 1779. Being pursued by the tories and Indians from the shore, and one of the men, Jonathan Rowley, being killed by a shot from the pursuers, they surrendered. Stevens was then seventeen years old and resided in Rutland County. He not then residing in this County, and therefore not strictly within our province, we give only an abstract of Major Field's narrative. The prisoners were taken to Chamblee, "thrust into a small prison, ironed two together and fed for nine days on no other food than dry peas uncooked. From thence they were taken to Quebec, where Mr. Stevens spent three New Year's days in one room." Twice they made their escape, and after traveling a long time in a destitute and suffering condition, at one time in the dead of winter, and a part of the time living on roots and the bark of trees, until one of the party died, they were retaken and recommitted, and in June, 1782, were exchanged at Whitehall. Mr. Stevens settled in Cornwall in 1792, and died June 16, 1815, aged 53 years.

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\* SQUIRE FERRIS died at Vergennes, March 17, 1849, aged 87 years.



## CHAPTER IX.

## AGRICULTURE—WHEAT—TRANSITION FROM GRAIN TO STOCK—SHEEP.

THE tract of land west of the mountains, embracing the valleys of Lake Champlain and Otter Creek, when first cleared up, was as celebrated for the production of wheat as Western New York has since been. It was the principal staple among the productions of the County. The following facts will give some idea of the value of this crop. At the close of the last war with Great Britain, the people of the County were almost hopelessly in debt. At the June term of the County Court in 1817, the number of civil causes entered at that term, amounted to more than five hundred, and nearly all for the collection of debts. This pressure of indebtedness was wholly relieved by the crops of wheat raised in the County. The very cold, dry and unproductive season of 1816, had rather increased than diminished the pressure. But the following season of 1817, brought to the relief of the farmers more luxuriant crops, especially of wheat, than any other within our recollection. The excessive drouth of 1816 had prepared the stiffest soils to be thoroughly pulverized by tilling. Large fields were sown; the season, with its gentle and frequent showers and genial sunshine, was most favorable, and the crops singularly abundant. The winter following, the price of wheat in Troy, the principal market, was from two dollars to two dollars and twenty-five cents a bushel; the sleighing was excellent, and was faithfully and industriously improved by the farmers, and the large returns brought great relief to them. The favorable crops which followed had, three years after, in June, 1820, reduced the whole number of new causes entered, to ninety-eight.

But the insects, rust and frost have, in late years, greatly dimin-



ished the crop and discouraged the farmers. But it is thought the farmers might, without much trouble, raise sufficient for the bread of the County, if they did not choose to direct their attention to more profitable husbandry. Good crops of corn and potatoes, and large crops of beets, carrots and other roots for stock are produced, and the latter are becoming common among the farmers. Except on the hills and rising grounds, the soil is generally too stiff to be advantageously cultivated for these crops. But most farmers have patches of land suitable for raising them in sufficient quantities for their own use. Oats are produced on almost any of the lands, which the farmers have courage to till sufficiently. Rye, barley and buckwheat are also raised to some extent.

But the soil of the County is best adapted to the production of grass and the raising of stock. And no County perhaps, in this or any other State can exhibit a finer or more abundant display of horses, cattle or sheep. It is the common opinion of farmers, that grass, grown on the clay or marl lands of the County, is much more nutricious, than that which is grown on lighter soils. The editor of the Albany *Cultivator*, in the number for July, 1845, after visiting Addison County, says: "Judging from appearances, it is our opinion, that we have never seen any other land, which is capable of sustaining as much stock to the acre." "Stock of all kinds will and *do* actually fatten on this hay. It is a fact that oxen bought in the fall, in only store condition, if properly sheltered and fed on this hay, become in the spring fit for slaughter, and are sent to Brighton market without any other feeding." For this reason, and because of the failure of the wheat crop, the farmers have, for the last twenty or thirty years, directed their attention to the raising of stock, and especially of sheep. One evil has resulted from this change in the agriculture of the County. The business of grazing requires large farms to satisfy the ambition of the enterprising; and the large profits have enabled the more wealthy to crowd out the smaller land owners and send them to the west. The result has been, that, in several of the principal agricultural towns, the number of the farmers, and of course of the population has considerably diminished.



Instead of going into a detailed history of the transition from the former to the present branch of agriculture; or the cause of the change, we take the liberty to quote several passages from an excellent "address delivered at the annual fair of the Addison County Agricultural Society, October 1st, 1844," by Hon. Silas H. Jenison, late governor of the State, then a resident of Shoreham, but since deceased. He was a practical farmer and well acquainted with the subject.

Referring to the earliest history of agriculture in the County he says: "Among other products of the soil, it was found as favorable to the production of wheat as any other section of the country, then open to the agriculturist. Wheat consequently early became the staple product of the county." "Addison County became noted for the quantity and quality of the wheat. The whole force of the farm was directed to the increase of this crop." "During the third period of ten years, extending to 1820, the high price of wheat continued to influence the business of the farmer. Many fields had been by successive cropping, exhausted of their native fertility. Wheat, when sowed to the extent it had been raised for years before, became a less profitable crop. Farmers were awaking to the importance of manuring their old fields." And this conviction, Governor Jenison represents, was a reason that the farmers gave more attention to the raising of cattle for the purpose of providing manure for their wheat crops, and he adds:

"The number and quality of our cattle was increased and improved. With many farmers, the raising of cattle for market became the leading business. The cattle from the County began to be prized in market, and Addison became as noted for the excellence of its cattle, as for its wheat. The excellent grazing qualities of the soil were known and appreciated. Indeed, I have heard it remarked, that the butchers of Brighton could distinguish, by the appearance and feel, the fat cattle from this part of Vermont, from those in market from other places; and that cattle from this part of the State, of the same apparent flesh, had the preference with them, opening better, having a greater quantity of tallow and beef of superior quality and flavor."



"A circumstance, referable to this period, has had great influence on the subsequent pursuits and prosperity of the farming interest of the County. Several individuals, awakened to the wants and capabilities of the country, by privations and embarrassments experienced during the interruption of our commerce with foreign countries before and during the war with Great Britain, did, at great expense, and incurring the penalty of all innovators—being laughed at by their neighbors—introduce into the County the Merino sheep. Among the foremost in this beneficent work, were Refine Weeks, Daniel Chipman, George Cleveland, and Horatio Seymour."

"During the next period of ten years, bringing us to 1820, the agriculture of the County appears to have been in a transition state." "While some of the farmers had, as a main business of the farm, embarked in rearing cattle, and others in increasing their sheep, many had not abandoned the idea, that wheat might still be a staple product of the County for exportation. They still persisted in the business, notwithstanding the increasing failures of the crop, caused by the exhaustion of the soil, ravages of the Hessian fly, spring killing, blight or rust. But in 1827 or 1828, an enemy to the wheat crops appeared, which baffled all the efforts of the farmer to evade. The insect commonly, but improperly, called the weevil—that name belonging to an insect that preys on the wheat after it is fully ripened and harvested. The insect alluded to is a small, orange-colored maggot, and commits its depredations on the berry, while in the milky state, leaving the head and almost disappearing from the grain, when ripe. By a late writer in the *Cultivator*, it is called the wheat midge. As early as 1829, its ravages had increased so that, in some towns, in the County, scarcely a field escaped."

"When the wheat crop failed, those engaged in the business had to resort to some other branch of farming. The tenacious quality of much of the soil of the County, forbid the cultivation of hoed crops, and the raising of pork, as a substitute. I have before remarked, that the Merino sheep had been spread through the County with wonderful rapidity. Indeed, so rapidly was the char-



acter of the flocks changed, that as early as 1824, in many towns, a considerable flock of native sheep could not be found."

Of the raising of horses, as a department of agriculture, Gov. Jenison has not particularly treated. In what we have further to say, we propose to speak, separately of sheep, horses and cattle. And first of

#### SHEEP.

In the address from which we have so largely quoted, Governor Jenison says, "The increased prices obtained for wool, and the avidity with which it was sought in market, after the passage of the tariff act of 1828, pointed to that business as more lucrative than any other. A majority of the farmers eagerly engaged in increasing their flocks of sheep. The result has been, that Addison County had in 1840, in proportion either to territory or population, a greater number of sheep, and produced more wool than any other county in the United States. To show the truth of this remark, I refer to facts drawn from the statistical tables accompanying the census returns of 1840, and from other sources. There are nine States which had more than one sheep to each inhabitant, to-wit: Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maine, Kentucky, Connecticut and Ohio, with a portion more than one; New Hampshire and New York had about two and one-fourth, and Vermont had five and three-fourths to each inhabitant. Should territory be regarded, Vermont will be found to have 185, New York 112, and New Hampshire 65 to the square mile."

"Addison County, when compared with the other counties in the State, will be found to have eleven and six-hundredths, Rutland eight and eighty-five hundredths, Grand Isle seven and four hundredths, and Bennington six and nineteen hundredths to each inhabitant. If territory be regarded, Addison has three hundred and seventy-three, Grand Isle three hundred and thirty-four, Rutland two hundred and eighty-three, Windsor two hundred and sixty-one, Orange two hundred and forty and Chittenden two hundred and twenty-one to a square mile." "This array of figures is no idle speculation. They represent facts, which show the immense



stake the farmers of Addison County possess in this branch of husbandry."

If we had the time and the resolution, we should like to draw a similar comparison from the census of 1850. But we have neither. In order, however, to give as good an idea as we are able, of what has been and is the amount of transactions in this department, we have collected from a few of the principal farmers, who are engaged in this business, some facts relating to their operations. The design of them all has been to improve their flocks, as well by breeding as purchasing, that they may be able to supply the market with the best wool and best sheep.

Rollin J. Jones, Esq., of Cornwall, having decided in 1844, to engage in sheep husbandry, proceeded to make careful selections from several of the best pure blood Spanish Merino flocks in New England, in every instance paying for a first choice. In his first purchase, he expended about two thousand dollars. From these have been bred his present flock, and those he has sold of that breed. And his experience in breeding this class of sheep, has more and more confirmed him as to their value. Sales have been made of these in most of the New England, Middle and Western States. In many places, where they have been introduced, they have obtained premiums, at State and County fairs over numerous competitors. In 1849, S. B. Rockwell, Esq., of the same place, now residing in Middlebury, became associated with him as a partner.

Messrs. Jones and Rockwell, since their connection, have been eminently successful. In 1852, owing to repeated applications for French Sheep, which had been introduced into the country about six years before, they invested in the purchase of these sheep \$2,200; a part of which included a first choice from the flock of Merrill Bingham. These sheep, they say, were the most perfect of the kind they had ever seen. In 1853, they purchased of Solomon W. Jewett, of Weybridge, one entire shipment of French Sheep, imported by him in April of that year. These purchases, with some subsequently made, cost \$18,000. For several years previous to the spring of 1855, when this information was communicated, their annual sales varied from eight to twelve thousand dollars. For



the eighteen months next preceding, they amounted to \$50,000. They have been in the practice, as many of the principal dealers have been, of taking their sheep for sale to the Western States, especially to Ohio. Their flock on hand, at the date above mentioned, numbered six hundred, one half imported French Merinos, and their descendants. They have a high opinion of the French as well as Spanish Merinos, and think a cross between these breeds would be advantageous.

William R. Sanford, Esq., of Orwell, and Messrs. William S. and Edwin Hammond of Middlebury, have, for several years, been extensively engaged in breeding and dealing in sheep. For our convenience we treat of the operations of these parties together, as they have been, to some extent, connected, and much of our information relating to both, has been obtained from Edwin Hammond, Esq. They both breed the pure Spanish Merinos, descendants of the flock, which Col. Humphreys, who was at the time American Minister to Spain, imported into Connecticut in 1802, or of the flocks, which William Jarvis, Esq., then American Consul in Spain, imported in 1809, 1810 and 1811. These they greatly prefer to any more recently imported, or to any other breed. The usual flock of Mr. Sanford numbers from 250 to 500. Messrs. Hammond's flock, at this time, (1855) numbers 400, including lambs. The sales of both have been uniformly made at home.

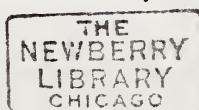
In a communication from Mr. Sanford, published in the Albany *Cultivator*, for September 1844, he says: "In 1829, I purchased of Messrs. Grant and Jenison of Walpole, N. H., twenty old full blood Merino ewes, which were purchased by them, when lambs, of Hon. Mr. Jarvis, and warranted full blood. These I have kept distinct and pure, and from them have reared a flock. The ewes yield an average of four pounds and over to the fleece of clean, handsome wool. Messrs. Grant and Jenison, bought these sheep from Mr. Jarvis before the Saxony sheep were introduced into the country, and were of course pure; and since I have had them, I have taken a good deal of pains and trouble to keep them so. I have purchased three superior bucks from Mr. Jarvis, and by using them and my own rearing have kept them pure." Since the above, Mr.



Sanford has made several purchases, to a large amount, of descendants of Col. Humphreys' flock. At the National Exhibition of cattle and horses, at Boston, in October 1855, Mr. Sanford obtained the second premium on Spanish Merino bucks, two years old and over; the first premium on bucks under two years old, and on ewes the two first premiums; and at the Vermont State Fair at Rutland, in September of that year, the first premium on Spanish Merino buck lambs and ewe lambs.

In 1844, Messrs. Hammond, wishing to improve their flock and extend their operations, examined the most important flocks in several New England States, and among others, that belonging to Stephen Atwood, of Watertown, Conn., and selected and purchased from his flock, thirty, and in the next four years several more. These Mr. Atwood had from Col. Humphreys' flock, under such circumstances, that he had satisfactory assurance that they were pure and free from Saxony and other breeds. From these their present flock has been bred.

Mr. Sanford and the Messrs. Hammond, having for several years increased and improved their flocks by breeding "in and in," were desirous of finding other sheep, at least as good as theirs, to cross with them, and Mr. Sanford, in behalf of both parties, went to Europe for the purpose of examining the best flocks in the different countries, and of purchasing the best he could find. He examined the most distinguished in Spain and France. In the former country he found none which he was willing to import; in the latter he purchased twenty French Merinos. He went then into Germany, and, with the advice and aid of the American Consul, at Stuttgart, who had made himself thoroughly informed on the subject, and who accompanied him for a fortnight, he examined the most celebrated flocks in the different States of Germany, and extended his examination as far as Prussia, and there purchased twenty Silesian sheep. These and the French sheep he imported. The French are much larger than the Spanish Merinos, or their descendants, with fleeces in proportion. But Mr. Hammond states, that the wool is not so even, varying in different parts of the body. The Silesian sheep are smaller than the Spanish, but the wool is fine. They did not



should be increased from a 10% minimum to a 15% minimum. Similarly, the 10% minimum should be increased to 15%. The more lenient language will allow greater flexibility in passing laws of this type. At present, state statute requires the minimum liability for defective parts sold to consumers to be \$1000 per item and... you're probably familiar with the concept of "defective consumer goods" and how consumers are protected under the CPSC and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. I would add that the proposed legislation would also provide that

any manufacturer or supplier classified as small (4000 sq. ft. or less) or medium (4000-10,000 sq. ft.) business, may have an exemption from liability for both death and injury resulting from the sale of a defective product if it can demonstrate that it has taken all reasonable steps and measures to prevent the occurrence of such injuries. This would be an important provision for small manufacturers and suppliers who sell to consumers through catalogues and direct mail. It would also help to reduce the cost of insurance premiums for these companies and would be good for the consumer because it will allow them to buy products at a lower price. The proposed legislation would also require that manufacturers and suppliers to provide a written guarantee for their products for a period of one year. This would give consumers peace of mind knowing that they can return a product if it fails to meet their expectations. The proposed legislation would also require that manufacturers and suppliers to provide a written guarantee for their products for a period of one year. This would give consumers peace of mind knowing that they can return a product if it fails to meet their expectations.

regard either of these as an improvement of their flocks and immediately sold them.

Mr. Edwin Hammond thinks the Spanish sheep have improved greatly since their importation into this country, and especially in this County; and that there are better sheep in the County of Addison than in *any other part of the world*. This opinion is founded on his own personal examination of many of the best flocks in this country, and the examination by Mr. Sanford and others of the most celebrated flocks in Europe. He offered, he said, to Mr. Sanford, on his going to Europe, one thousand dollars for a pair of imported sheep, *as good as his*, with a view of crossing them with his present flock; but Mr. Sanford found none such during his tour.

The price of Mr. Hammond's sheep has increased every year. In 1853 their sales amounted to \$7,000; in 1854 they sold two ewes for \$1200, and six others for \$1200. Their bucks that year were sold from \$500 down to \$10—the latter being culls. The whole averaged \$29, each. They have this year (1855,) sheared from two two year old bucks, 22 and 23 pounds; in 1854, from one yearling ewe 12, and from one two year old ewe 13 pounds. The wool was not washed on the sheep, but was clean.

Solomon W. Jewett, Esq., of Weybridge, had for many years been an extensive dealer in grade sheep. In 1843 he began to interest himself in pure blood sheep. He purchased of the descendants of the Merinos imported by Col. Humphreys, Mr. Jarvis and others. Among others he purchased the celebrated buck "Fortune," a descendant of Mr. Jarvis's importation. Mr. Jewett raised from that buck about 200 lambs annually, which he sold from ten to twenty-five dollars, and some as high as \$50 each. He sold several sheep sired by this buck, to Henry S. Randall, Esq., of Cortland Village, N. Y., on which he received the first and second premiums at the State Fair at Poughkeepsie in 1844, and with which, together with Mr. Jewett's buck, he published a challenge for competition, to the whole country.

In 1845, Mr. Jewett imported from England ten Spanish Merinos from the flock of Lord Weston, of Essex, who was the most noted breeder, and had the best flock of Spanish sheep in England.



Six hundred of these sheep, he states, having been presented, in 1803, to George III. That king gave Lord Weston the privilege of selecting from the flock, when first landed at Plymouth. These Mr. Jewett thinks were much inferior to the best flocks in this country. From the above, and some other additions, he kept for several years a flock of from 500 to 600 blooded sheep.

In 1851, Mr. Jewett went to Europe, for the purpose of examining and purchasing sheep, and has been twice since for the same purpose. In France he purchased, at fifteen or twenty shipments, seven hundred French Merinos, which he selected from the three best flocks in that country, owned by Messrs. Gilbert, Cugnot and Guerin, and a few from the government flock at Rambouillet. These sheep, including expenses cost about \$55,000. He has sold most of these at an average of about \$100, each, the sales amounting to from 15 to 20,000 dollars annually. He sold one pair, a buck and ewe at \$600. He also imported from Spain in 1854, ten sheep, through Mr. Haddock, the American Minister to Portugal; but not being such as he wished to keep, he butchered them.

As to the relative value of the different breeds of sheep, Mr. Jewett's opinion is, that, if the farmer's object is to raise mutton, as well as wool, the French Merinos of the first quality are the best; but for wool only, the Spanish. He has had an opportunity, not only for a personal examination of the best flocks in this country and in Europe, but has examined the published accounts of the weight of the fleeces of Spanish sheep in both countries, and his opinion is that they have greatly improved in this country since their importation. Referring particularly to the flock of the Messrs. Hammond of Middlebury, he expressed the opinion, that the fleeces of their sheep exceed, by one third or more, the fleeces of the native Spanish sheep. Indeed he expresses the decided opinion, that their flock is the *best flock in the world*.

Alonzo L. Bingham and Merrill Bingham, brothers of Cornwall, have been as long and as extensively engaged in the sheep business as any other farmers in the County. They have been not only large breeders but large purchasers; and have sold large numbers for many years in the Western, Middle and Southern States. From



Merrill Bingham personally, we have had no information. From Alonzo L. Bingham, we learn that he has been engaged in the breeding, purchasing and selling sheep for twenty years. He, for many years and until 1846, devoted his attention exclusively to Spanish Merinos, purchased from different importers.

In 1846, he commenced breeding French Merinos, and has imported large numbers through John A. Tainter, Esq., of Hartford, Conn. He now prefers the French sheep, and gives his whole attention to them. When his attention was given to the Spanish, he had a flock of twelve hundred,—although not always so many—and raised annually from four to five hundred. Since he commenced with French sheep, his flock has been less; but he has raised from them annually more than he has ewes,—many of them having twins. At the State fair in the fall of 1855, he received not less than nine premiums on different classes of French sheep.

In the Vermont *Register* of May 31st, 1854, we find an article containing a statement of his sales from September 1st 1853, to May 1st, 1854, from which we collect the following summary. The sheep were French Merinos, and the amount of sales, during the above mentioned eight months, was \$13,302.50. All but the amount of \$7,033, which were sold by an agent at the west, were sold by himself on his farm in Cornwall, to persons living in each of the States of Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York, Missouri, Connecticut and Vermont. He states also, that his sales of sheep for the last year,\* have amounted to between thirty and forty thousand dollars; and that the average price for which his French sheep have been sold, is \$175. Mr. Bingham thinks, that both the Spanish and French sheep are greatly improved by being raised in this County. He says it is admitted, all over the west, that the sheep of Addison County are superior to any others; and that Mr. Tainter, who has been a large importer, says, that he found no such Spanish sheep in Europe, as in this County, and that French sheep are also greatly improved here.

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\* We wish the reader to bear in mind, that the materials for these chapters were obtained in 1855 and the chapters written at that time.



As a specimen of the weight of Mr. Bingham's fleeces, at his sheep-shearing in 1852, (we have no later information) we give the following extract from an editorial article in the Middlebury *Register* of May 26th of that year. "We select the following particular instances from those sheared on the first day.

	CARCASS.	FLEECE.
No. 16	107 pounds.	21 pounds.
" 23	91 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	20 "
" 25	134 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	23 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
" 26	89 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
" 33	111 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	18 "

There were thirty-three sheared on that day, "nearly or quite all yearling ewes."

The agriculturists named, are probably the most extensive dealers in the County. But there are many others, who are largely engaged in breeding and in the improvement of their flocks, in every part of the County; some of whom are more or less also employed in the trafic. But we are not able to detail their operations. The raising of wool takes precedence of all other branches of farming in almost every town. We should be glad to ayail ourselves of any means in our power to give a definite statement of the number of sheep, and the annual amount of the crop of wool in the County. We have spoken of the extensive trafic as an historical fact. But it is the breeding and improvement of the flocks, which is the more appropriate business of the agriculturist. The success which has attended this department has induced the trafic, to which we have referred. The speculations and the extravagant prices and profits, which have arisen from this source may to some extent die away, when the country is more generally supplied with the best breeds; but while the County sustains the reputation of raising the best sheep, there will be a market for them for recruiting and improving the flocks in less favored regions of the country.



## CHAPTER X.

## CATTLE—HORSES.

THE standing of Vermont is generally strikingly shown by the reports of the Boston cattle market; in which the number from this State appears, from week to week, to be nearly double those of any other New England State. Of these, Addison County, we believe, furnishes its full share; and it is represented, that the exhibitions, at the annual County fairs, are not inferior to those of any other County. But the farmers have made fewer efforts in that department, than in those of sheep and horses. We regret that, with all our diligence, we have not been able to ascertain, from those who best know, what efforts have been made and the success which has attended them. At an early day, Thomas Byrd, Esq., of Vergennes, and soon after General Amos W. Barnum, of the same place, introduced into that neighborhood a considerable number of imported English breeds, and the full blood and cross breed of Ayershires, Herefords and Durhams, are quite common in the north part of the County, and, to some extent, prevail in other parts. Wightman Chapman, Esq., then of Weybridge, kept on his farm, for eight or ten years, a very celebrated Ayershire bull, presented to him by John P. Cushing, Esq., of Massachusetts, which was esteemed by many the best bull in the country. The editor of the Albany *Cultivator*, who had examined him, in the number for August 1845, says: “He is a good bull, has a small clean head, clean limbs, a well shaped body and mellow skin. With the exception of Mr. Archibald’s bull, sent to the Poughkeepsie Show from Montreal, he is decidedly the best bull we have ever seen.” The blood of this animal has been extensively diffused through the cattle in the central parts of the County. Governor Jenison, in the



address, from which we have so largely quoted, in referring to the "effects and general results of the introduction" of foreign breeds, says: "I venture the assertion, that where a favorite individual is found, could the pedigree be traced in most instances, you would not go many removes back before you would run against some one of the imported improved breeds of stock." But the number of full bloods of any of these breeds is quite limited. Cyrus Smith, Esq., of Vergennes, has a celebrated Durham bull, which took the first premium at the State fair in Rutland, and at the Addison County fair at Middlebury this year, (1855) Alonzo L. Bingham of Cornwall, obtained several premiums, at the State fair, on Durham, Hereford and Devon cattle. Horatio Plumley of New Haven, has a full blood Durham cow, from which he has raised several excellent calves, and obtained, at the County fair, the second premium on a bull, which was one of them. W. R. Sanford, Esq., of Orwell, two or three years since, imported two cows and one calf of the Devonshire breed, has bought a few since, and now has eight full bloods, besides two, which he lately sold to the Messrs. Hammond of Middlebury, who from them have raised two calves. Mr. Sanford says, that the beef of this breed sells higher in England than any other. At the National Exhibition in Boston, and at the Vermont State fair, he received several premiums on Devon cattle. At the State fair Messrs. Hammond obtained the first premium on bull calves of this breed.

We are glad to learn that a movement is in contemplation for the improvement of cattle in the County.

#### HORSES.

The reputation of the County, and the enthusiasm in the breeding of horses, among the farmers, do not suffer much in comparison with those in regard to sheep. Vermont horses have a reputation through the whole country. The original stock consisted of such as were common in the States from which the emigrants came. In some of these States, and especially Connecticut, considerable efforts had been previously made to improve the stock. In the year 1810, Ep. Jones, Esq., introduced and kept in Middlebury, for three or four years, a very beautiful, full-blood Arabian horse,



called the "Young Dey of Algiers." His descendants formed a very excellent breed. But the farmers had not then come to appreciate sufficiently the improvement in horses to patronize the high prices, which his services required, and he was removed. Since that, at various times, different stallions have been kept in the County, and among them the "Old Messenger," an imported English horse, and his descendants; from which the stock has been from time to time improved.

The present prevailing stock consists of the different branches of the Morgan horse. These originated from the horse generally known by the name of the "Justin Morgan." This horse was brought, when two years old, by Justin Morgan, from Springfield, Mass., from which place he removed to Randolph, Vermont, in the year 1795, and was kept by him there until March, 1798, when Mr. Morgan died. He was then sold to William Rice, of Woodstock. It does not appear that he was much thought of, or that much care was taken of him, until the excellence of his stock was revealed by his colts. His sire was the "True Britain, or Beautiful Bay," which was raised by Gen. Delancey, commander of the refugee forces on Long Island, and was afterwards kept one season by Justin Morgan. The True Britain was sired by the Traveller, an imported horse also owned by Gen. Delancey. The dam of the Justin Morgan was said to be a descendant of Wild Air, imported also by Gen. Delancey. Mr. Joshua Scott, of Vergennes, who has been acquainted with the Morgan horses from the first of that breed, has a record which traces back the pedigree of the sire and dam of the first Morgan to the Arabian Horse Godolphin, in England, which we do not think of importance enough to insert here. Mr. Scott states that four of the colts of Justin Morgan were kept as stallions, and from them were derived the several branches of that breed; to-wit: "Woodbury," owned and kept by Mr. Woodbury, at Rochester, Vermont, until twelve years old, and afterwards owned successively by Mr. Walker, of Chelsea, and Peter Burbank, of Newbury; "Sherman," owned by Mr. Sherman, of Barre, and afterwards kept by John Bellows, Esq., of Bellows Falls; "Bulrush," raised in Williamstown, and "Revenge," kept



for a while in this State, and afterwards removed. The dams of the Woodbury and Sherman were of English descent. Mr. Scott thinks that three-fourths of the horses now generally known as Morgan, are of the Woodbury branch. Among the colts of the Woodbury was the Gifford. This was the sire of the Green Mountain Morgan, whose dam was also of that breed. This horse is or was owned by Silas Hale, of Barre, Mass., and, we believe, is the most noted of those known as Morgan horses. He was kept two seasons, a few years since, in Middlebury, in this County. The Gifford was also kept by Mr. Scott, in 1851, in the same place. The Hacket Horse, owned and kept by Col. Hacket, in Middlebury, for several years, was sired by the Gifford, from a Woodbury dam. The Flying Morgan, sired by the Hacket horse, and owned by Riley Adams, of Burlington, and distinguished for his speed in trotting, was for some time kept in this County. Woodbury 2d, raised by Mr. Scott, and now eight years old, is still kept by him in Vergennes, and is the only real Woodbury horse kept for mares in the County.

Mr. Weissinger, one of the editors of the Louisville, Ky., *Journal*, who, some ten years ago, made a tour through Vermont, and other eastern States, and took pains to examine the best horses of the general Morgan breed, as quoted by the *Cultivator*, says, "There is no doubt whatever of this, that the breed of the Morgan horse was and is now, in the few instances where it can be found, far the best breed of horses for general service, that was ever in the United States, probably the best in the world; and it is remarkable, that this breed was and is now known by many striking peculiarities, common to nearly every individual."

The old Woodbury Morgan, at twenty years old, was sold for \$1300. Mr. Hale says, "several stallions, begotten by Green Mountain Morgan," of which he was the owner, "have sold as high as \$1500; many have brought prices ranging from \$800 to \$1200; geldings and mares from \$300 to \$800; few less than \$200. The Woodbury and other breeds generally designated as Morgans, are less generally found in this County than in the eastern part of the State; and in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, having been generally sold and removed.



The Black Hawk and his descendants are more generally found here. This horse was sired by the Sherman Morgan, then owned by John Bellows, Esq., of Bellows Falls, and his dam was a large black mare and fast trotter, and is said to have been a half-blood English, raised in New Brunswick. He was raised by Mr. Twombly, of Greenland, N. H., and when four years old, was purchased by Benjamin Thurston of Lowell, Mass. In the year 1844, David Hill, Esq., of Bridport in this County purchased him of Mr. Thurston, and has kept him in that place ever since. Mr. Weissinger, from whom we have before quoted, says of him, "I think he deserves all the praise that has been bestowed on him. He is the finest stallion I ever saw. His legs are flat and broad, shoulders well set back, loin and back bone very strong, length of hip beyond anything I ever saw, as quick in breaking as the bullet from the rifle, head and neck faultless; in motion, mouth open, crest sublime, legs carried finely under him, square and even, and fore legs bending beautifully." We might quote other printed descriptions and recommendations of him, but it does not comport with our design.

Nearly all his colts more or less exhibit his traits. In this County they have become very common. Almost every farmer is anxious to obtain a Black Hawk colt. He has also a high reputation in almost every State. Probably the stock of no horse, ever kept in this country, has been so extensively known and so highly appreciated. Mr. Hill says,—“It is claimed by many of our best judges, that this is a new and permanent variety or breed. By this is meant that they possess peculiar points so uniform and distinct from the immediate ancestors of Black Hawk, that he is justly entitled to be considered the parent or head of a distinct class.” He says also, “Black Hawk has sired, I think, fully one hundred colts a year, since I owned him. His colts are now distributed throughout nearly all, if not all, the States of the Union, and several are in Canada. I know of some owned in every State except” five southern and south-western States. He says, “this breed of horses have great beauty and symmetry, are high-spirited, yet docile and tractable: are more generally adapted for light and



rapid driving; have great courage and endurance; many are adapted for the farmer's "all work" horses, and few or none for the slow and heavy coach."

Mr. Hill has furnished us the following information of the prices at which some of Black Hawk's colts have been sold. Fifty colts, including a few geldings, and mares, sold in Bridport, have averaged over \$600 each. Eight, sold by himself, consisting of four fillies, one gelding, two three year old and one four year old stallions have averaged over \$700 each. "The following," he says, "are a few of the most noted of this horse's stock, with prices paid or offered for them. Ethan Allen, \$10,000, Red Leg, a gelding, \$1,750, Black Hawk Maid, a mare, \$1,600. The above were all from the same dam, and raised by Joel W. Holcomb, of Ticonderoga, N. Y.. Belle of Saratoga, a mare raised by David Hill, \$4,200; Know Nothing, a gelding, \$3,500; David Hill, now in California, \$10,000; Ticonderoga, \$5,000; Hammitt colt, \$5,000; Sherman Black Hawk, \$5,000; Plato, three years old, \$3,000; Flying Cloud, of Ohio, \$3,000; Rip Van Winkle, two years old, \$2,000."

Black Hawk\* is now (1855) twenty-one years old, and there is so great demand for his services, that the price charged for each mare the present season is one hundred dollars.

The Rutland and Burlington Rail Road, from Burlington to Bellows Falls, and passing through the whole length of this County, which was first opened about the first of January, 1850, has advanced the prosperity of agriculture beyond any other influence. It has opened a direct and rapid communication with Boston and New York, which are adequate markets for all the agricultural productions of the County at high prices. The result has been to raise the price of all agricultural products. The price of lands in the vicinity, by the same means, has also been raised from 25 to 50 per cent, and in some cases doubled. And if those who have contributed so liberally for the construction of the road, have lost their whole investment, the farmers have gained as much. One obvious

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\* Black Hawk has died since the above was written.



benefit, resulting from this influence, has been to raise the amount and quality of the productions of the dairy. There is now no danger of getting any but good butter from any farmer.\*

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\* See Appendix No. 2, for agricultural and other products in the County.



## CHAPTER XL

## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—MEDICAL SOCIETY.

An agricultural society, at an early day, was formed in this County, and continued an annual fair for several years; but soon declined for want of legislative encouragement.

The legislature in 1843, passed an act to give encouragement for forming agricultural associations. This act authorizes the formation of agricultural societies in each County, which, when organized, become legal corporations with the usual powers necessary to accomplish their design, and the object of them is declared to be "to encourage and promote agriculture, domestic manufactures and the mechanic arts." The treasurer of the State is authorized to pay annually to each society a share of two thousand dollars, appropriated for the whole State, in proportion to the population of the County, in which it is established, provided that as large a sum shall have been otherwise raised.

Under this act, a society was formed by a convention held at Middlebury, on the 22d of January 1844, by the name of "The Addison County Agricultural Society." By the constitution adopted on that occasion, its object is declared to be "the improvement of agricultural productions, useful domestic animals, domestic manufactures and the mechanic arts, so far as they concern the interest of agriculture." The payment of one dollar is made the condition of annual membership, and the payment of fifteen dollars, the condition of life membership. The officers of the society, are to be a president, two vice presidents, secretary and treasurer. A board of managers is constituted, consisting of the above officers, and one member from each town, where ten members reside; who are authorized "to have a general supervision of the affairs of the society,



fix upon such productions, experiments, discoveries or attainments in agriculture and horticulture, and upon such articles of manufacture, as shall come in competition for premiums at the agricultural fairs, also upon the number and amount of premiums, and the time and place of holding fairs." The officers are to be chosen at an annual meeting, to be held at Middlebury, on the first Wednesday of January, which was afterwards altered to the fourth Wednesday of that month. The first meeting was held on the same day the society was organized, and Hon. Silas H. Jenison was elected president, and Harvey Bell, Esq., secretary.

The first fair was held at the court house and adjoining grounds in Middlebury, October 1st 1844, and an address was delivered by Hon. Silas H. Jenison, which was printed, and from which we have already largely quoted. The fairs in 1845 and 1847, were held at Vergennes; at the former of which an eloquent and interesting address was made by Rev. Dr. Wheeler, President of the University of Vermont. Addresses have also been made at other fairs; of which we have not now sufficient information to give a correct statement. The fair in 1849 was held in Shoreham. All the others have been held in Middlebury. At the annual meeting in January 1852, the constitution was so altered as to authorize the managers to fix on a permanent location for the annual exhibitions; and they, at a meeting in June of that year, fixed on Middlebury for that purpose, provided the citizens should provide suitable grounds and fixtures, and pay one hundred dollars annually toward the expenses. Since that time the fairs have been held on grounds leased from Gen. Nash, in the north part of the village, where temporary fixtures were erected. These grounds have now been sold and appropriated to another use.

Several gentlemen in the County have recently purchased a tract of twenty-two acres, south of the court house, which formerly belonged to Jonathan Wainwright, including the barns and extensive sheds, erected for keeping and preparing for market his horses, when he was largely engaged in that traffic. Here they design to erect permanent fixtures upon a large scale for the accommodation of the annual exhibitions. Arrangements are in progress to raise



the requisite funds to transfer the title to the corporation; but, until this is accomplished the society will pay rent to the proprietors.

Hitherto the fairs have fully met the expectations of the most sanguine. Many of them have been interesting and extensive, and, we think, have produced a favorable effect in stimulating efforts for improvement, and securing advancement in all the departments within the province of the society. There have been exhibited an extensive variety of the products of agriculture, horticulture, and of domestic and other manufactures; and very often of numerous and fine specimens of painting, drawing and various kinds of ornamental work by native artists. After what we have said of the stock department of agriculture, none will be disappointed when we say, that the exhibitions have been large and splendid in cattle, horses and sheep. Whatever others may say, the citizens of Addison County will not shrink from a comparison with the exhibitions of stock of any other County in the State, or perhaps of any other State.

The following have been the presidents and secretaries of the society.

FROM	PRESIDENT.	TO	FROM	SECRETARIES.	TO
1844	Silas H. Jenison,	1848.	1844	Harvey Bell,	1847.
1848	Elias Bottum,	1850.	1847	E. W. Blaisdell, Jr.	1850.
1850	Charles L. Smith,	1852.	1850	Joseph H. Barrett,	1857.
1852	Harvey Munsill,	1754.	1857	Justus Cobb,	still in office.
1854	Edwin Hammond,	1857.			
1857	William R. Sanford,	still in office.			

#### ADDISON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The legislature, at their session in 1813, passed an act authorizing several physicians in each county by name, to form themselves into County Medical Societies, by the name of the Medical Society of the County in which they should be formed. And the societies were severally to be corporations with the usual powers, necessary for the purposes, for which they were designed; and were authorized to adopt and alter a corporate seal. They were to have power to assess taxes on the members, "for the purpose of procuring a library and suitable apparatus, and for other uses," provided the



tax shall not exceed three dollars. The officers authorized by the law are a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, librarian and three or more censors to hold their offices for one year, or until others are chosen. The several societies were required to "hold semi-annual meetings in the shire town in each county, at the time of the sitting of the County Court, for the purpose of establishing and regulating the libraries of said society, receiving and communicating medical information, examining students," and any other proper business. The act requires that students examined and approved by the censors "possess a good moral character," and "have pursued the studies of physic or surgery at least three years;" and, being approved, shall receive a diploma from the president, which shall entitle him to all the privileges of a member of the society. The same act authorizes the formation of a State Society, to consist of three delegates from each County Society.

The physicians named in the act for this County are William Bass, Edward Tudor, Ebenezer Huntington, Asher Nichols, John Wilson, Nicanor Needham, Frederic Ford Jr., John Lyman, Frederic Ford, William Guile, John Willard, Luther E. Hall, James Day, Dan Stone, Levi Warner, David McCollister, Martin Gay, Zenas Shaw, Josiah W. Hale.

In pursuance of this act the physicians named met at Middlebury on the 15th of December, 1813, and organized the Addison County Medical Society, and elected the following officers; Ebenezer Huntington, of Vergennes, President, William Bass, of Middlebury, Vice President, Luther E. Hall, Vergennes, Secretary, Frederic Ford, Cornwall, Treasurer, William Bass, Librarian, Dan Stone, Edward Tudor, Frederic Ford, Jr., John Lyman and David McCollister, Censors. Luther E. Hall and Dan Stone were appointed a Committee to report a code of by-laws. It was further voted, that future meetings shall be held at Dr. William Bass's, in Middlebury, and that the President deliver an inaugural address, before the society, at their next meeting. This meeting was adjourned to the 19th of January, 1814. At this meeting the President delivered his inaugural address, and a code of by-laws, reported by the committee, was adopted. William Bass and Luther E.



Hall and Dan Stone were also appointed a committee, to "present to the Society a device for a seal and form of diploma." At the first meeting a tax of one dollar was assessed, which at the next was increased to one dollar and fifty cents; and at both these meetings, candidates were examined and licensed.

The society thus organized continued in full life and vigor until about the year 1824. Dissertations and addresses on medical subjects, under appointment for that purpose, were read; difficult and uncommon cases of disease and their treatment reported by the members; new members admitted, candidates examined and approved by the censors received diplomas, taxes were assessed, a library collected and delegates regularly elected to the State Society. In 1822, the State Society commenced a series of resolutions proposing measures for the regulation of the County Societies. One requiring the County Societies to make an annual report of the "diseases prevalent in the County during the year," "under a penalty of five dollars fine on failure;" one prescribing new qualifications for the admission of candidates for license; and another affixing a penalty of five dollars for a neglect of the County Society to "send their proceedings to the State Society, annually, as required by law;" also a regulation respecting the dismission or withdrawing of members from the County Societies.

These proceedings were not received with much favor by this County Society; and at the annual meeting in December, 1824, a committee was appointed to take into consideration the proceedings of the State Society, and "report some plan of management for our Library." At an adjourned meeting the committee reported, recommending a dissolution of their connection with the State Society; and another committee was appointed to confer with the other County Societies on the subject. At a meeting in June, 1825, a resolution was passed instructing the delegates to request the State Society to "petition the Legislature so to alter the act of incorporation as to render the County Societies independent of the State Society."

The result of the proceedings, so far as appears of record, was that, at a meeting in May, 1826, a resolution was adopted to "put



up our library at auction to the members of this Society ;" and the sale took place in June following. In the meantime, several members had withdrawn with the consent of the Society, few attended the meetings, and the measure above mentioned was adopted, we suppose, to close the existence of the Society. The last meeting of which there is any record, was in October 1826; when the whole business related to closing the financial affairs of the Society. The organization of subsequent societies seem to have been regarded as a revival of this society, formed under the act of 1813, although at each of these organizations, new constitutions were adopted.

Dr. Ebenezer Huntington, the first president, was continued in that office until 1823, when Dr. Luther E. Hall was appointed, and continued president until 1826, when Dr. William Bass was appointed the last president. Dr. Luther E. Hall was secretary from 1813 to 1820, when Dr. Thomas P. Matthews was appointed and continued to the close.

On the 24th of December, 1835, a County Medical Society was organized and adopted a Constitution, and on the same day held its first meeting. Dr. Jonathan A. Allen was chosen President, Dan C. Stone and E. D. Warner, Vice Presidents, Ralph Gowdey, Secretary, and Atherton Hall, Treasurer. About six months after, in June, 1836, another meeting was held, and this closes its written history.

"The Addison County Medical Society" was re-organized by a convention held at Vergennes on the 30th day of June 1842, adjourned from a preliminary meeting held at Middlebury two weeks before. A new Constitution was then formed, by which the object of the organization is declared to be, "to promote a knowledge of medical and surgical science, and a friendly intercourse among the members of the faculty." The officers of the Society are "a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and three Censors, together with the President and Vice President, who shall be *ex-officio* Censors," and they are elected annually. "Any regular practitioner of medicine, a graduate of any legally authorized medical institution, who resides within the State, and shall sign the constitution and by-laws, and conform to the objects designed, may be a member of the society; and any person, who sus-



tains a good moral character may become a member, who shall have studied the science of medicine and surgery three years under the direction of a regular practitioner, and attended at least one course of medical lectures, in some legally established institution, and has passed an examination by the censors, and by them recommended." Any person having passed such satisfactory examination "may become a member by signing the constitution and by-laws, and receive, if he wish, a diploma by paying five dollars." According to the by-laws, meetings are to be held "at Middlebury semi-annually, on Thursday of the first week of the County Court." The first meeting was held on the day on which the Constitution was adopted, and Dr. J. A. Allen of Middlebury, was chosen President, Dr. Dan C. Stone of Vergennes, Vice President, and Dr. David C. Goodale of Addison, Secretary.

Since the last organization in 1842, the society has been in efficient and successful operation. The meetings have generally been regularly held and attended; and we judge many of them most interesting and profitable. A member at one meeting was often appointed to make an address or read an essay on some important subject at the next, and at all the meetings it was made the duty of each member to report such interesting and difficult cases of disease as had occurred in his practice, and each case was discussed by the other members of the society. It was one of the rules of the society that each person appointed president should make an address at the close of the term for which he was elected. At the annual meeting in June, 1847, Dr. Jonathan A. Allen, having officiated as President the previous year, read an address which was published. From this we make a quotation, principally to show how he regarded the influence of the organization. He says, "It is now five years since the Addison County Society was organized in its present form. During this period twenty meetings have been held, generally well sustained by the attendance of the members. Many facts, highly interesting to the profession, and consequently useful to the public, have been presented. Much valuable information has been elicited by our discussions, and we have every reason to believe that not a member has failed of adding



to his general stock of practical knowledge. In addition to these advantages, valuable acquaintances have been formed, generous, elevated and kind professional feeling promoted. Many of these endearments will reciprocally remain among our members until the closing period of their existence. Jealousy, suspicion and want of confidence have been almost entirely removed from our ranks. Our members meet as friends. Consultations now, in lieu of being objects of bickering, are generally desired, and usually, by the mutual and kind expression of opinion, result beneficially to the sick." The whole community would feel safer if such an influence should prevail generally among the doctors.

At a subsequent meeting in February, 1848. the death of Dr. Allen was announced by Dr. Russel, who stated that "the principal object of the meeting was to adopt measures suitable to the occasion" of his death. "The President, Dr. Bradford of Vergennes, read a short but expressive paper concerning his life and death;" and appropriate and commendatory resolutions were adopted. The Society also appointed Dr. S. P. Lathrop, of Middlebury, to prepare a biographical sketch, which was afterwards ordered to be published in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

The following have been the Presidents and Secretaries of the Society.

FROM	PRESIDENT.	TO	FROM	SECRETARIES.	TO
1842	Jona'n A. Allen, Middlebury,	1844.	1842	David Goodale, Addison,	1844.
1844	Joel Rice, Bridport,	• 1845.	1844	S. Pearl Lathrop, Middlebury,	1846.
1845	Dan C. Stone, Vergennes,	1846.	1846	W. P. Russel,	" 1847.
1846	Jonathan A. Allen,	1847.	1847	Charles L. Allen, still in office.	
1847	A. Bradford, Vergennes,	1848.	Dr. Allen is also Treasurer and Librarian.		
1848	E. D. Warner, New Haven,	1850.			
1850	Earl Cushman, Orwell,	1856.			
1856	E. D. Warner, still in office.				



## CHAPTER XII.

## POPULATION—CHARACTER—ADVANTAGES—DANGERS.

The population of Addison County does not materially differ from that of the other Counties in this State, and other New England States. The whole exhibits the influence of the spirit of emigration and colonization, which has prevailed and increased since the first settlement of the country. The character of the whole population of the country has been modified and, in many respects, we think, improved by this disposition, especially in its spirit of enterprise and individuality. An individual, who has courage to leave the place of his birth, and remove three hundred or a thousand miles to the outskirts of civilization to better his condition, learns that there are other places and people besides those he has left behind, and perhaps equal or superior to them. His views are enlarged, and his inquiries are no longer confined to the limited sphere of his early home, and he begins to think there may be still other regions beyond and elsewhere. If he has energy to remove once, he has still more to remove again, when profit or pleasure tempt him. He learns also that there are other countries beyond the oceans, which encircle him, and he looks to them as fields for indulging his thirst for speculation or his curiosity. Wherever he locates himself, he finds other men and other customs and manners and ideas which are new to him, and which he studies, and thus improves his own, and shakes off his provincial habits and prejudices.

Added to this cause, which to some extent is common to all the States, the early settlers of Vermont experienced a long course of discipline in the hardships and self-denial and energy required for their hard contested controversy, in defending themselves and their property against the oppressive claims of exterior powers, and especially in the contest for their separate independence.



Although we cannot boast of large numbers of learned men, like some other States, more favorably situated, we do not shrink from a comparison of the mass of our population, for general intelligence and practical energy, with any other. Not a few intelligent men, who have long resided in other New England States and elsewhere, have expressed to the writer of this sketch the conviction, that in no State is the population of the same classes, and especially the farmers, superior, if equal, to that of Vermont. No State, we believe, has sent out more efficient, practical and useful emigrants to people the "new countries." Vermont is an inland State, and agriculture is the pursuit of the great body of its inhabitants; and she has no foreign commerce to build up large cities, where great wealth is accumulated, and learned men congregate.

Among the most important influences, which operate in modifying the character of our population, are our liberal institutions, placing, as they do, every man in the dignity and responsibility of a man. And paramount to all others perhaps is that of town corporations, which are common and almost peculiar to New England. They are not only pure democracies, but they are schools, in which the principles of democracy are taught; where all meet on a common platform, with equal rights and powers, not only as voters, but as candidates for office. So numerous and extensive are the legislative and administrative powers within their limits, that all have an opportunity to become acquainted with our laws and institutions, acquire habits of public business and qualify themselves for higher political trusts.

Our common schools and seminaries of learning for the instruction of all classes, and our churches of various denominations, where all may meet for public worship and for instruction in their religions, social and civil duties, are means of spreading general intelligence and virtue through the community. Besides these every family is more or less supplied with books and periodicals, which keep them informed of the passing events, and remind them of their duties to their country and the world. The writer of this sketch has been as long and as advantageously situated as any one to ascertain the ability of all classes of men in this County to write, and he has no



recollection of more than one or two native Americans, residing in the County, who could not write his own signature ; and these were brought up in regions remote from schools. The twenty-five native Americans, who are reported in the census of 1850, in this County, as being unable to read or write, were probably similarly situated in the early settlement of the country.

If the population of Addison County is distinguished from that of any other County, it is occasioned by the influence of Middlebury College situated among them. This influence is not confined exclusively to this County ; but no person, who has been long acquainted with the history of that institution, has failed to observe its influence upon the intelligence of the community in its neighborhood, and in raising the standard of education in the subordinate institutions. Few towns, if any, in the country, have afforded a larger number of young men for a collegiate education, in proportion to their population, than many of the towns in Addison County.

It may be mentioned as an evidence of the peaceable and orderly character, as well as prosperity of the inhabitants, that courts of justice have less business in this County, in proportion to its population, than in any other County. No person has ever been convicted of a capital offence in the County. Four have been tried for murder, one in 1815 and one in 1825 ; but both were convicted of only manslaughter. Another was since tried twice, but the jury failed in both cases to agree on a verdict, and he was discharged ; and the other was acquitted on account of insanity.

From the foregoing sketches, it will be seen, that the County of Addison has sufficient resources for wealth and material prosperity, and that its citizens have sufficient intelligence and enterprise, in due time to develope them. It will be seen also, that they have the means of intellectual, moral and religious improvement. And we may well congratulate ourselves that we live in an agricultural district, where there is a general social equality ; where there are few so rich as to excite the envy and ill-will of their neighbors, or to be free from the necessity of some active occupation, or so poor as to need charity. We have no large cities with their accumulated masses of wealth, poverty and crime. We have no such wealth to



foster extravagance, luxury and a factitious aristocracy, with its arbitrary conventional ceremonies, as in large cities sets at naught the equality, simple manners and sober verities of the country. We are not like them, beset on every hand by temptations to dissipation and debauchery, and we have no such masses of corruption to spread a moral pestilence through the atmosphere. We have no such large collections of the refuse population of Europe—its paupers and criminals—broke loose from the restraints of government and law at home, that they may riot here in their imaginary freedom from all restraints; who nightly disturb the peace of the community with riots and quarrels and murders; and who are ready at the call of designing politicians, to control our elections. The institution of the family, so important in the country, for its restraints and the cultivation of the social affections, is to a great extent obliterated in some of the large towns. There hundreds of children have no home but in the streets, and no associates but their fellows in the same condition. The crowded population everywhere, and the artificial conventionalisms of the more wealthy households forbid the salutary restraints and separate and undisturbed intercourse of the family circle. And thus the young grow up with the feeling that they belong rather to the great public than to the family in which they were born. These evils are not to be charged to the inhabitants generally of larger towns, but are incident to, and inseparable from, their position. No more moral, pious and philanthropic men are anywhere to be found. And yet the evils exist.

We ought to bear in mind, that there is danger from this source to the whole country, and that a serious responsibility rests upon the people in the rural and agricultural districts, like the County of Addison, in relation to them. The influence of large commercial towns is gradually extending itself over the country for evil, as well as for good. The evil influence may, and should be counteracted by an influence from the country. A large proportion of the teachers and influential professional and business men, and of the annual increase of the population, in the large towns, are educated in, and are emigrants from the country. There is besides a constant



intercourse and mutual influence going on between the city and country. From the distinguished advantages enjoyed by the rural districts, it is, we think, their province to save the rest of the country. Our free institutions, as every one understands, will depend on the intelligence and virtue of the people. It is therefore the first duty of all patriotic citizens of Addison County, as well for their own safety as for that of the country, to encourage and support all needed educational and religious institutions in efficient operation.



## APPENDIX.

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No. 1.—CHIEF JUDGES OF THE COUNTY COURT UNTIL THE NEW ORGANIZATION OF THE JUDICIARY IN 1825.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Appointed.</i>	<i>Left.</i>	<i>Years in Office</i>
John Strong,.....	Addison,	1785	1801	16
Joel Linsley,.....	Cornwall,	1801	1807	6
Henry Olin,.....	Leicester,	1807	1808	1
Joel Linsley,.....	Cornwall,	1808	1810	2
Henry Olin,.....	Leicester,	1810	1824	14
Dorastus Wooster,.....	Middlebury,	1824	1825	1

ASSISTANT JUDGES OF COUNTY COURT.

Gamaliel Painter,.....	Middlebury,	1785	1786	1
Ira Allen,.....	Colchester,	1785	1786	1
William Brush,.....	Vergennes,	1786	1787	1
Abel Thompson,.....	Panton,	1786	1787	1
Hiland Hall,.....	Cornwall,	1786	1789	3
Samuel Lane,.....	"	1786	1787	1
Gamaliel Painter,.....	Middlebury,	1787	1795	8
Abel Thompson,.....	Panton,	1789	1801	12
Joel Linsley,.....	Cornwall,	1795	1801	6
Abraham Dibble,.....	Vergennes,	1801	1805	4
Henry Olin,.....	Leicester,	1801	1807	6
Samuel Strong,.....	Vergennes,	1805	1808	3
Charles Rich,.....	Shoreham,	1807	1813	6
Henry Olin,.....	Leicester,	1808	1810	2
Mathew Phelps, Jun.,.....	New Haven,	1810	1812	2
Samuel Shepard,.....	Panton,	1812	1813	1
Samuel Strong,.....	Vergennes,	1813	1815	2
Ezra Hoyt,.....	New Haven,	1813	1818	5
Charles Rich,.....	Shoreham,	1815	1816	1
William Slade, Jr.,.....	Middlebury,	1815	1822	6
Stephen Haight, Jr.,.....	Monkton,	1818	1823	5
Elisha Bascom,.....	Shoreham,	1822	1824	2
Ezra Hoyt,.....	New Haven,	1823	1824	1
John S. Larabee,.....	Shoreham,	1824	1825	1



<i>Names.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Appointed.</i>	<i>Left.</i>	<i>Year in Office</i>
Daniel Collins,.....	Monkton,	1824	1825	1
Dorastus Wooster,.....	Middlebury,	1825	1831	6
Eben W. Judd,.....	"	1825	1829	4
Silas H. Jenison,.....	Shoreham,	1829	1835	6
William Myrick,.....	Bridport,	1831	1833	2
Samuel H. Holley,.....	Bristol,	1833	1842	9
Calvin Solace,.....	Bridport,	1835	1838	3
Davis Rich,.....	Shoreham,	1838	1842	4
Calvin Solace,.....	Bridport,	1842	1844	2
Fordyce Huntington,.....	Vergennes,	1842	1844	2
Dorastus Wooster,.....	Middlebury,	1844	1846	2
*Jesse Grandey,.....	Panton,	1844	1845	6 mo.
*Ville Laurence,.....	Vergennes.	1845	1847	2
George Chipman,.....	Ripton,	1846	1849	3
Elias Bottum,.....	New Haven,	1847	1849	2
Calvin G. Tilden,.....	Cornwall,	1849	1851	2
Nathan L. Keese,.....	Ferrisburgh,	1849	1851	2
Joseph Haywood,.....	Panton,	1851	1854	3
Roswell Bottum, Jr.,.....	Orwell,	1851	1854	3
†Dorastus Wooster,.....	Middlebury,	1854	Jan. 1855	2 mo.
Erastus S. Hinman,.....	New Haven,	1854	1856	2
†Samuel Swift,.....	Middlebury,	1855	1857	3
John W. Strong,.....	Addison,	1856	1858	2
M. W. C. Wright,.....	Shoreham,	1857	1855	
Harison O. Smith,.....	Monkton,	1858	1855	

## COUNTY CLERKS.

Samuel Chipman, Jr.,.....	Vergennes,	1785	1786	1
Roswell Hopkins,.....	"	1786	1803	17
Darius Matthews,.....	Middlebury,	1803	1808	5
Martin Post,.....	"	1808	1810	2
John S. Larabee,.....	"	1810	1814	4
Samuel Swift,.....	"	1814	1846	32
George S. Swift,.....	"	1846	1855	9
John W. Stewart,.....	"	1855	1855	6 mo.
Dugald Stewart,.....	"	1855		

## STATE'S ATTORNEYS.

Seth Storrs,.....	Addison,	1787	1797	10
Daniel Chipman,.....	Middlebury,	1797	1804	7

\* Judge GRANDY died before June 1st, 1815; VILLE LAWRENCE was appointed by the Governor in his place.

† Died January 1853.

‡ Appointed in place of D. Wooster



<i>Names.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Appointed.</i>	<i>Left.</i>	<i>Years in Office</i>
Loyal Case,.....	Middlebury,	1804	1808	4
David Elmond,.....	Vergennes,	1808	1810	2
Horatio Seymour,.....	Middlebury,	1810	1813	3
David Elmond,.....	Vergennes,	1813	1815	2
Horatio Seymour,.....	Middlebury,	1815	1819	4
*David Edmond,.....	Vergennes,	1819	1824	5
†Noah Hawley,.....	"	1824	1824	5 mo
Enoch D. Woodbridge,....	"	1824	1827	3
George Chipman,.....	Middlebury,	1827	1830	3
William Slade,.....	"	1830	1831	1
Ebenezer N. Briggs,.....	Salisbury,	1831	1833	8
Ozias Seymour,.....	Middlebury,	1839	1845	6
George W. Granley,.....	Vergennes,	1845	1848	3
John Prout,.....	Salisbury,	1848	1851	3
John W. Stewart,.....	Middlebury,	1851	1854	3
Frederic E. Woodbridge,..	Vergennes,	1854		

## SHERIFFS.

Noah Chittenden,.....	Jericho,	1785	1786	1
Gamaliel Painter,.....	Middlebury,	1786	1787	1
Samuel Strong,.....	Vergennes,	1787	1789	2
John Chipman,.....	Middlebury,	1789	1801	12
William Slade,.....	Cornwall,	1801	1811	10
Jonathan Hoyt, Jun.,....	New Haven,	1811	1812	1
John Willard,.....	Middlebury,	1812	1813	1
Samuel Mattecks,.....	"	1813	1815	2
Jonathan Hoyt, Jun.,....	New Haven,	1815	1819	4
Abel Tomlinson,.....	Vergennes,.	1819	1824	5
Stephen Haight,.....	Monkton.	1824	1828	4
Seymour Sellick,.....	Middlebury,	1828	1831	3
Marshall S. Doty,.....	Addison,	1831	1833	2
Azariah Rood,.....	Middlebury,	1833	1835	2
William B. Martin,.....	"	1835	1836	1
Azariah Rood,.....	"	1836	1837	1
Ethan Smith,.....	Monkton,	1837	1839	2
William B. Martin,.....	Middlebury,	1839	1840	1
Adnah Smith,.....	"	1840	1842	2
Gaius A. Collamer,.....	Bristol,	1842	1844	2
David S. Church,.....	Middlebury,	1844	Jan. 1859	14
†William Joslin,.....	Vergennes,	Jan. 1859		

\* Died in spring of 1824.

† Appointed by Court in place of D. Edmond.

‡ Appointed by the Governor on the death of D. S. Church.



## HIGH BAILIFFS.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Appointed.</i>	<i>Left.</i>	<i>Years in Office</i>
Samuel Mattocks,.....	Middlebury,	1798	1806	8
John Warren,.....	"	1806	1808	2
Artemas Nixon,.....	"	1808	1810	2
Moses Leonard,.....	"	1810	1812	2
James Jewett,.....	"	1812	1813	1
Benjamin Clark,.....	Weybridge,	1813	1814	1
Eliakim Weeks,.....	Salisbury,	1814	1816	2
Wightman Chapman,.....	Weybridge,	1816	1826	10
Nathaniel Foster,.....	Middlebury,	1826	1829	3
John Howden,.....	Bristol,	1829	1830	1
Marshall S. Doty,.....	Addison,	1830	1831	1
Myron Bushnell,.....	Starksboro,	1831	1833	2
Milo Winslow,.....	Middlebury,	1833	1835	2
Gaius A. Collamer,.....	Bristol,	1835	1837	2
Wightman Chapman,.....	Weybridge,	1837	1839	2
Harry Goodrich,.....	Middlebury,	1839	1840	1
Asa Chapman,.....	"	1840	1849	9
George C. Chapman,.....	"	1849	1850	1
William Joslin,.....	Vergennes,	1850	1853	3
G. A. Collamer,.....	Bristol,	1853		

## JUDGES OF PROBATE—District of Addison.

John Strong,.....	Addison,	1837	1801	14
Darius Mathews,.....	Cornwall,	1801	1819	18
Samuel Swift.....	Middlebury,	1819	1841	22
Silas H. Jenison.....	Shorham,	1842	1847	6
Horatio Seymour,.....	Middlebury,	1847	1855	8
Calvin G. Tilden,.....	Cornwall,	1855		

## DISTRICT OF NEW HAVEN.

Ezra Hoyt,.....	New Haven,	1824	1829~	5
Noah Hawley,.....	Vergennes,	1829	1831	2
Jesse Grandey,.....	Panton,	1831	1833	2
Adin Hall,.....	New Haven,	1833	1835	2
Harvey Munsil,.....	Bristol,	1835		



## NO. 2.

The following statement of "Agriculture, Farms and Implements, Stock, products," &c., is taken from the census of 1850.

Addison County. Acres of improved land 243,312, unimproved 115,287. Cash value of farms \$7,799,257. Value of farming implements \$236,270. Horses 5,921. Asses and Mules 1. Milch Cows 10,631. Working Oxen 2,815. Other Cattle 13,218. Sheep 188,151. Swine 5,822. Value of Live Stock \$1,289,608. Value of animals slaughtered \$176,856. Wheat, bushels of 103,44. Bushels of Rye 20,096. Bushels of Indian Corn 175,478. Bushels of Oats 211,385. Pounds of Wool 622,504. Peas and Beans 26,355. Bushels of Irish Potatoes 318,421. Of Barley, 149. Of Buckwheat 15,659. Value of Orchard products \$41,696. Gallons of Wine 114. Pounds of Butter, 876,771. Cheese 817,149. Tons of Hay 88,793. Bushels of Clover Seed 5. Other Grass Seed 1,589. Pounds of Hops 5,962. Of Flax 1,232. Bushels of Flax Seed 51. Pounds of Silk Cocoons 76. Of Maple Sugar 205,263. Gallons of Molasses 650. Beeswax and Honey pounds of 40,654. Value of Home Manufactures \$9,618.



## NO. 3.

The following table shows the population of the several towns in the County of Addison, at each United States Census, since Vermont was admitted into the Union.

	1791	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850
Addison,.....	401	734	1100	1210	1306	1220	1279
Avery's Gore,.....			13	20		78	
Bridport,.....	440	1124	1520	1511	1774	1480	1293
Bristol,.....	211	665	1179	1051	1274	1233	1344
Cornwall,.....	826	1163	1270	1120	1264	1163	1155
Ferrisburgh,.....	481	956	1647	1581	1822	1755	2075
Goshen,.....		4	86	200	555	621	486
Granville,.....	101	185	324	828	408	545	603
Hancock,.....	56	149	311	442	472	455	430
Leicester,.....	843	522	609	548	633	602	596
Lincoln,.....		97	255	278	630	770	1057
Middlebury,.....	805	1263	2133	2535	3168	3162	3517
Monkton,.....	450	880	1248	1152	1384	1310	1246
New Haven,.....	723	1135	1688	1566	1834	1503	1663
Orwell,.....	778	1386	1849	1730	1598	1504	1470
Panton,.....	220	363	520	546	605	670	559
Ripton,.....			15	42	278	357	567
Salisbury,.....	446	644	700	721	907	942	1027
Shoreham,.....	721	1417	2063	1881	2187	1675	1691
Starksboro,.....	40	350	726	914	1342	1263	1400
Vergennes,.....	201	516	835	817	900	1017	1278
Waltham,.....		247	244	264	301	283	270
Weybridge,.....	175	502	750	714	850	797	804
Whiting,.....	250	404	565	609	653	660	629
	7,267	14,745	21,643	21,879	26,593	25,074	26,549



## APPENDIX.

## CENSUS OF 1850.

	WHITES.			FREE COLORED.			<i>Avg'gale.</i>
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Aldison,.....	659	620	1279				1279
Bridport,.....	735	658	1393				1393
Bristol,.....	668	644	1312	16	16	32	1344
Cornwall,.....	576	577	1153	2		2	1155
Ferrisburgh,.....	1043	1023	2069	2	4	6	2075
Goshen,.....	261	225	486				486
Granville,.....	314	280	603				603
Hancock,.....	236	194	430				430
Leicester,.....	290	305	595	1		1	596
Lincoln,.....	564	483	1052	3	2	5	1057
Middlebury,.....	1730	1769	3499	8	10	18	3517
Monkton,.....	600	646	1246				1246
New Haven,.....	825	832	1657	5	1	6	1663
Orwell,.....	727	742	1469		1	1	1470
Panton,.....	287	267	554	3	2	5	559
Ripton,.....	303	264	567				567
Salisbury,.....	526	501	1027				1027
Shoreham,.....	822	779	1601				1601
Starksboro,.....	725	675	1400				1400
Vergennes,.....	653	694	1347	13	18	31	1378
Waltham,.....	141	129	270				270
Weybridge,.....	399	405	804				804
Whiting,.....	311	317	628	1		1	629
	<u>13,398</u>	<u>13,043</u>	<u>26,441</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>26,549</u>

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